

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

2016 Dons and Doñas Selected

It is with pleasure that the Pleasant Valley Historical Society announces this year's Dons and Doñas. They are following in a tradition that dates back to 1965 when the first men and women were chosen for this unique honor. The criteria for selection include outstanding service to the community and residency that exceeds 20 years in Camarillo and its environs. This year's honorees more than fulfill these requirements. They are:

PAUL DWORK

BRUCE FUHRMAN

ROLAND GLOVER

MYRON HARRISON

STELLA LING

PRISCILLA PARTRIDGE de GARCIA

MICHAEL ANN ROCKENSTEIN

DON SEIDLER

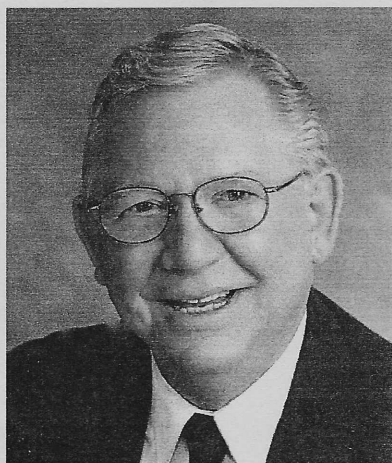
DON VALENZANO

They will be introduced to the community on *Saturday, August 20*, at a barbeque and Silent Auction which this year will be held at the Camarillo Community Center for the first time. The Center has the advantages of more space, air conditioning and better parking. The Santa Maria barbeque-style meal will again be catered by Wood Ranch and will include tri-tip and chicken, beans, salad, garlic bread and dessert. Beverages of your choice will also be included in the price of a ticket. Please note that the event is on a Saturday. 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 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. Credit cards will be accepted. Formal invitations will be mailed in July. Tickets will be held for you at the door. For more information, call Bob Rust at 484-6601. Doors open at 1 p.m., entertainment starts at 1:30 p.m., the honorees will be introduced at 2 p.m., meal service follows.

Meet

In Memory—Stanley James Daily



A Founding member of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society, Stanley James Daily, died on March 25, 2016 at the age of 80.

In 1964, the same year as the incorporation of the City of Camarillo, interested citizens saw a need to identify and preserve historical artifacts relating to the Pleasant Valley. Stan was one of the guiding and last surviving members of the PVHS board. Patricia Meredith remains the sole surviving member. Liz Daily, his wife of 59 years, supported him while raising their 4 sons. She remains a main supporter and worker for the Society.

Continued on Page 2

Stanley James Daily *(Continued from Page 1)*

At the same busy time, young 30 year-old Hueneme High School teacher, Stanley J. Daily, was elected to the first Camarillo City Council. Highly involved in the campaign for incorporation, he was “incensed at the attempts by the city of Oxnard to annex the Camarillo area.” Walking the streets of the city, he tirelessly explained the benefits of incorporating while introducing himself as a candidate for the city council if the ballot proposal passed. Of the 26 candidates running for the position, Stan came in second and was appointed Vice-Mayor while top vote getter, Earl Joseph, was chosen Mayor. His involvement in city government continued until his retirement in 1998 after serving 6 terms as mayor, justly earning the title, “Mayor Emeritus.”

Although Stan was extraordinarily involved in over seventy councils, boards and associations in Ventura County during his active life, for over 50 years he always found time for his important Pleasant Valley Historical Society Board of Directors. Serving as Parliamentarian for most of those years, his guidance insured that meetings were “Robert’s Rules” perfect and authored many policies and procedures.

As a third generation Camarillan, his first-hand knowledge was unsurpassed and served as a resource for many interested in local history. His infectious personality served us well in enlightening others on benefits for the City and the Society. He will be truly missed.

MEET EVELYN CHUNN, ONE OF OUR EARLY SETTLERS

Joy Todd

Picture walking down dusty Arneill Road with apricot trees, lettuce and carrots right there for the picking. Evelyn Chunn used to walk home from Pleasant Valley School to her home on Las Posas (near where the Episcopal Church is now) and pick apricots, in season, and eat carrots and lettuce, “We feasted on whatever was the current crop. Mr.Arneill was the nicest man and he let us do that.”

Evelyn was delivered by Dr. William R. Livingston, October 15, 1915 in the first St. John’s Hospital in Oxnard instead of at home because her mom had problems. She can almost say she was born and raised in Camarillo. Her first home had no electricity or indoor plumbing.

Her father, Earl Hamlin, came from Ohio and met her mother, Pauline, when he lived in the Heritage Valley. They moved to Camarillo when her dad went to work for her grandfather. “They farmed dry land lima beans and black-eyed beans on the hills where the Camarillo Estates are now. He drove a team of mules to pull the planter, plow, etc. A thrashing crew came around at harvest time and I played on the 100 pound bags of beans stacked up high. I recall one year during that time there was a total eclipse of the sun and all the chickens my mother raised went to roost.” Evelyn was part of an apricot picking crew at the age of seven.

Evelyn was seven years old when Mrs. Dingess, a music teacher travelling in an old Dodge open-air car, arrived to give her piano lessons. She set Evelyn up at the table and told her to move her fingers as she called the number of each finger. Evelyn was not impressed; she did finally get to a real piano. Mrs. Dingess was hard of hearing, but she always seemed to catch it if Evelyn made a mistake. In her teens she took lessons from Mrs. Case in Ventura.

Her parents attended Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, in the original building on Ventura Blvd. before she was born. This congregation was to figure prominently in her life. At 16 years of age the people of PV Baptist Church “elected” Evelyn to be the pianist. Eleanor Gerry was the other pianist. She relates, “We never heard of being

Meet Evelyn Chunn, *Continued from Page 2*

paid.” When a new minister came to the Baptist Church, he wanted an organ. The company sold the PV Baptist Church an organ and said they would send someone to teach her how to use it. The man came once. Because of gas rationing he could not afford to come to Camarillo again. Evelyn needed to master it on her own, continuing to accompany church services until well into the 1980s.

At 16, her family moved to the Joe Levy Ranch, a few miles west of Moorpark. The house is gone now, but it was at the bend of Hwy 118 as it crosses the railroad tracks, on the south side of the road. Mr. Levy needed a manager to take care of his newly planted walnut trees and her dad took up the challenge. Evelyn graduated from Moorpark High School, Class of 1933, took a graduate course and got a variety of jobs, among them, working in the school office for the principal, in a lawyer’s office and as a bookkeeper for a Moorpark nursery.

As young men, Lawrence Gerry and Albert Chunn (her husband to be) used to play football on Santa Rosa Rd. When the wind was right, Lawrence could hear Albert whistle for him to come down. Albert later went to work for Mr. Hamlin, Evelyn’s dad.



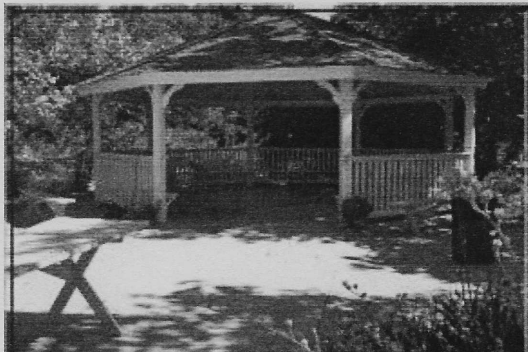
Albert and Evelyn married on November 10, 1935. Joe Levy built a house just for them on the ranch near her parent’s home. It cost \$10,000, had hard wood floors and all the extras. They lived there for over thirty years and raised their 3 children there. Joe Levy used to come out to the ranch every Sunday and he and her dad would lie in hammocks under the wisteria arbor and smoke smelly cigars. After the death of Joe Levy they had to leave their home. Albert did custom farming, grain combining, digging sugar beets and also raising sugar beets, grains and tomatoes.

Evelyn’s mother was killed when a train hit her car on the tracks near Moorpark. Harold, Evelyn’s 9-year-old son, was with her mother and was thrown from the car only sustaining a small injury. Evelyn and Albert were returning from an Easter Sunrise service at Mrs. Chase’s house.

The Chunn’s roots are deep in Camarillo. Albert’s brother, Herman, married Patricia Flynn. Herman worked at the Union Station in Old Town with Pete Etchechoury. Her father and husband were both Deacons at PVB Church. Reading through the records of the PVB Church, it seemed that Evelyn served on every committee possible and was there for every vote! She has life-long friends there.

Evelyn has 3 children, Ronald, Harold, and Charlotte, 5 grand children, 10 great-grands and 2 great-great grands. Albert passed away in 1998. Evelyn, still gracious and full of fun, will be 101 years old this coming October.

THE SECRET IS OUT!



More and more people are discovering the 27’ Amish Gazebo as a venue for small wedding ceremonies, celebrations or a group luncheon. Members of the Society (you can join for \$25 a year) can arrange to reserve this beautiful setting on weekends or at times during the week. Visitors can also discover for the first time that we have a museum in Camarillo that is an amazing resource for the Pleasant Valley. Check out our website or contact Valerie Tackett at pvhmgardenevents@yahoo.com for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last year we formed a committee to explore ways of expanding the Museum, increasing our visibility and developing our capacity to address the community's interest in local history. One alternative emerged as a wonderful possibility. We became aware that the City was ready to consider our continuing interest in the old Fire Station on Ventura Blvd. In April, we submitted a proposal to the City to restore and use it.

We are optimistic about this project. If we get the "green light," it will be a big bite. It will be a significant and ambitious move for us. We have done well in growing our organization and maintaining our location here on Las Posas Road since 1987. Old Town has definite advantages - visibility, central location and being in an historic structure that once was also our library and community center.

City Manager Dave Norman is working to bring about a plan that would allow St. Mary Magdalen Church's school to expand while allowing the Historical Society to lease the old Fire Station for the Museum's new location. Dave's goal is to bring together a triple win for the Historical Society, the church school and the City by allowing all parties to maximize their future property interests.

While we are still waiting for a definite answer from the City, it's time for us to start looking at our assets and talking to our friends. Even with a good deal on rent, it will be a considerable expense to renovate the building and make it safe for public use as a museum. Please think about the possibilities, and think about what you and other people and organizations in the community can do to help us achieve this vision. I hope you will join me in this challenge.

Max Copenhagen

MEMORIALS

Donations in memory of **Stan Daily** have been made by:

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer, Larry and Cecilia Shulman, Pat Wise, Bill and Joy Todd, Dianne Molnar and Fleeta Hudson, Noella Belvedere, Philip Smith, Robert and Charlene Scudder, Beth and Sheldon Miller, LaVonne Fosse, Bob and Donna Lutz, Orin Zarin, Shirley Randall, Adele Walsh, Richard and Madeline Lee, Rod Gilbert, Caroline Xaverius, Laura McAvoy and Sol Chooljian, Dan and Pat Moretti, Dona Bailey, Paul and Loretta Hawblitzel, Heather and Milton Daily, Candis Enriquez, Jane Pidduck, Larry and Deonne Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pizza, Suzanne Kitchens, Jay Aastrup, Roger and Pat Putnam, Shirley Fitzgerald, Jerry and Cheryl Bankston, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Bartels, America Ag Credit, Cronies Crew, Santa Rosa Plaza Associates.

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer contributed in memory of **Frank Woodson, Jerry Dempsey, Helen Batteiger, Leigh Jensen, Patsy Cawelti, Rod Moore, Jean Spencer, David Menne, Sally Grether, Winston Richard, Bob Lowry, Diane Haefer, Dick Huntsberger, Charles Pearson, Violette Palmer Estes, Betty Farner, Colleen McAvoy.**

Bob and Olivia Fulkerson, Barbara Fulkerson and Curtis Olsen gave in memory of **Robert Coultas.**

Boulevard Management gave in memory of **Jaqueline Nicholl**

Pat Wise contributed in memory of **Violette Palmer Estes.**

LIVING HISTORY DAY



This event began several years ago as a way of giving today's children a glimpse into the lives of their grandparents and great grandparents.

The children have fun making butterfly toys (pictured left), yarn dolls, panning for gold, wheat grinding, baking tortillas and churning butter. These were among the 20 stations open on this day and it was a delight to see the parents having as much fun as their children.

A total of 233 adults and kids attended; some from Ventura and Oxnard. Thanks to the 37 volunteers who made it all happen. Plan on joining in on the fun next May.

Thanks to all who participated. Joy Todd and Liz Daily.

STAN DAILY ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

2016 Rio Mesa graduate, Jessica Radwan, is the recipient of this award. She was named as winner at Rio Mesa's Award Ceremony earlier but will receive the monetary gift at the Don and Doña Barbeque. Her essay, "Camarillo History in the 1940s and 1950s," is about her family's history. Her essay will be included in the brochure to be distributed at the barbeque.

NEW DISPLAYS AT THE MUSEUM

Among the new displays added recently at the Museum is "Ladies of the E.W. Daily Family," a display of incredible hand-made crochet items from the early 1900s to the 1940s. Another display features dresses from the 1890s. Other exhibits for you to enjoy are "The Somis Community," plus early telephones and local area orange crate labels. If you haven't visited the Museum recently, drop in some Saturday or Sunday afternoon and browse.

2016 SPEAKERS SERIES

This series, being held in the Gazebo in our Garden, was developed to bring in knowledgeable people speaking on topics relating to the area's past and present times. It got underway with the June 23rd presentation on the Commemorative Air Force Museum at the Camarillo Airport.

The July program has been expanded to an entire afternoon in the Garden with speakers talking about Bees and Butterflies. It is set for Saturday, July 23, from 1 to 4 p.m. See page 6 for complete details.

On Thursday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m., Bob Fulkerson is scheduled to talk about the Fulkerson Hardware Store and the community of Somis. (Somis is being highlighted in a display in the Museum.) Bob is a long time resident of Somis and he will share his stories of the town with you. This should be a very enjoyable evening.

The final event of the season will be on Thursday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. It will be a presentation about the Stagecoach Museum in Newbury Park and the Conejo Valley. Learn more about our neighbors on the other side of the Grade.

There is no charge to attend any of these programs. Come and enjoy the outdoors in the garden area and partake of the refreshments provided by the Society.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Ron McCown who saw the need for a new garden shed and acted. He picked up a new shed, tore down the old one, assembled the new one and, with help from Bill Todd and Dave Bratz, put it on its new foundation. Thank you!

Betty Jo McDonald, Garden Chair



Our first Bee and Butterfly Celebration Day will be held on Saturday, July 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. It will follow the pattern of our Living History Day with activities for children, garden tours and speakers. The first will be Dr. Gordon Frankie (pictured with Betty Jo McDonald) from the Urban Bee Lab at Berkeley speaking in the gazebo about the importance of California Native Bees and their relationships with flowering plants. Dr. Frankie will also point out specific bees in the garden, showing us close up how to capture and observe them. Homes for native bees, which you will learn do not live in hives, will be on display.

The second speaker will be Lynn Krause from "This is a Monarchy," speaking about Monarch butterflies and how to plant a garden for them. The event is free to all. Children will receive free seed packs to plant a garden to attract bees and butterflies. We will have books, plants and packets of coastal wildflower mix seeds for sale. There will be many informational packets and literature offered so you can learn how to attract these fascinating creatures to your garden. Join us for a day of garden beauty, with blooms, birds, butterflies and bees as we introduce our bee and butterfly garden to the Camarillo community.

Think of ripples---a stone is thrown into a still lake and the ripples from that stone widen into ever larger ripples which encircle a greater area. I think of our garden, (The Charles Honn Botanic Garden) as the pond where ripples from events continue in widening circles. The original desire to create a home for the rich tapestry of the History of the Pleasant Valley led to the creation of the small Museum where revolving exhibits would tell the stories. Ah, but the Museum setting was marred by the weed patch which grew on the site of the debris-filled water reservoir behind the Museum. Then it was Betty Rutherford (as I heard the story) who said, "Let's build a garden!" And Charles Honn and the group made that a reality. A wider set of ripples which continued out encircled Betty Jo and Cherie, who each needed a project at the moment the garden needed us. The ripples widened to include the children from the Boys and Girls Club, and a series of children learned to love gardening. As the circles grew larger many couples in love were caught in the magic of the garden to celebrate their weddings. Along the way, many more volunteers were caught up in the beauty of the garden.

The ever widening circle of our garden ripples caught up in butterfly mania and we discovered "if you plant milkweed they will come" and the Monarch Butterfly section of the garden came to be.

The latest widening circle of our garden includes a refuge for bees, and especially California's wild and native bees which are hard pressed to find food and shelter for reproducing. As we planted nectar plants to attract butterflies and increased diversity, we unknowingly attracted native bees and the widening garden circle brought in Dr. Gordon Frankie from the UC Berkeley Urban Lab, who had been searching urban Camarillo for enough diversity to attract native bees, and a study site for the Urban Bee Lab was created here in our garden. Add your presence on July 23 and be part of the circle.

Board of Directors 2016-2017

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Gerry Olsen, *Parliamentarian*

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Ron McCown

Betty Jo McDonald

Roger Putnam

Patricia Roth

Daryl Smith

Betty Sullivan

Valerie Tackett

Bill Todd

Committee Chairs for 2016-2017

Accessions, Display, Cleaning: *Liz Daily, Joy Todd*; Annual Meeting: *Renee Higgins*; Facilities, Grants: *David Hibbits*; Finance/Budget: *Bob Rust*; Don and Doña Barbeque: *Joy Todd, Janett Whitlock*; Docents, Membership: *Bill Todd*; Don and Doña Selection: *Gail and Terry DeWolfe*; Gazebo Events: *Valerie Tackett*; Gift Shop: *Doris Fournier*; Policies: *Jeanne Adams*; Garden: *Betty Jo McDonald*; Newsletter: *Betty Sullivan*; Nominating Committee: *Frank Roth*; Publicity: *Barbara Wagner*; Sunshine, Living History Day: *Pat Roth*; Site: *Ron McCown*; IT: *Max Copenhagen*; Scholarship: *Liz Daily*; Signage: *David Bratz*; Speakers Series: *Bob Burrow*.

Thank you for supporting our Dine Out events. Funds generated help us keep the lights on at the Museum, maintain the garden and print and mail this newsletter.

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JOIN US FOR A *Fin-Tastic* FUNDRAISER

Enjoy Fin-tastic food & help raise money \$\$ for our cause.
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**Pleasant Valley
Historical Society**

**SAVE THE
DATE**

July 5th (Tuesday)

10:30 am – 9:00 pm

191 W. Ventura Blvd.
Camarillo, CA 93010
805-332-1441

Dine In. Call Ahead. Take-Out.

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you.



Please remember to present this flyer when ordering or picking up your phone-ahead order. *If your smartphone or tablet device can open this document, you can present it without printing it out.

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THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

invites you to

DINE OUT on Tuesday, August 2 at the

ADOLFO GRILL AND DAILY BAR

67 E. Daily Drive, Camarillo

From 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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