



The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

Our Ground Breaking Ceremony



Left to Right:
Bob Burrow
Mark Pettit
Tony Trembley
Bob Fulkerson
Bob Fierro
Joy Todd
←
PVHS
President,
Joy Todd
→



Project Manager/
Contractor
Bob Fierro
←

→
Bob Fulkerson
has to actually
turn some dirt



Left to Right:
Bill Manzer,
Adele Walsh,
Debbie Thiessen
←

→
Spectators



We have had our ground breaking ceremony. Thus, it is real and we are going to be renovating and adding on to the museum! Thank you to those who helped with the festivities and the members of the City Council who came out to support our adventure: Tony Trembley and Shawn Mulchay. We are embarking on a major fund raising effort to pay for the expansion and renovation. At this time, we have over \$400,000 left of our original \$750,000 startup money. Thank you to all those who gave when the actual build was questionable. You have kept us going, paying the City permit fees, earthquake test, and architectural costs. The “hoops” have been jumped through, and now we build.

The museum proper has been gutted, it looks rather sad, but the potential is there. We need your financial help to keep going past phase one.

Announcing the 2022 Dons and Doñas

Each year the Pleasant Valley Historical Society recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. Once again, nominations were received and reviewed to determine this year's group of worthy recipients. The individuals selected for 2022 include a wide range of service to the community to make the Pleasant Valley area even a more special place. PVHS congratulates the following:

<i>Brenda Brueckner</i>	<i>Wayne Brueckner</i>	<i>Helen Faul</i>	<i>Karen Gatchel</i>
<i>Mary Goldberg</i>	<i>Diana Hagen</i>	<i>Don Howald</i>	<i>Curt Luft</i>
<i>Mary Ann Novak</i>	<i>Gwen Speakes</i>	<i>David Tennessen</i>	<i>Betty Weyek</i>

Each of the members of the 2022 class of Dons and Doñas will be invited to a Board reception in August to meet one another. The individuals will be recognized at the annual Dons and Doñas BBQ on September 17th at the Community Center. Ticket cost is \$100 each. Make your plans now to join us at the BBQ celebration. Formal invitations will be sent out first part of August and/or go to pvhsonline.org; select "Events."

ACHS Mascot "Truth"



We recently came across an article featuring the "Oxnard Air Force Base" with pictures of Adolfo, an F-89 Scorpion and the Scorpion on the football bleachers. The second sentence stated the mascot was named after the plane. Not so! Even though the museum is closed, we have access to most of our historical documents.

The Dedication Program for ACHS on Sept. 9, 1956 gave us an interesting lead to follow. The school was opened on Sept. 11th with 9th and 10th graders — the first graduating class would be June, 1959. The program listed the "Flag Raising Ceremony" by Mr. A. Camarillo, but he was assisted by Student Body Officers — Gloria Sowers, President, and Mary Sisson, Vice President. Because Mary (Sisson) Wilson was

on a committee for choosing the mascot, she told us the "truth" about naming the mascot. She had been a 9th grader at Oxnard HS — home of the "Yellowjackets". The committee decided that a scorpion (the arachnid!) could "out sting" a yellowjacket, and that settled it! Although there were airplanes at OAFB that were Scorpions, that was just coincidental. Thanks, Mary!

"Buggy Barn"



We recently completed the "Buggy Barn" to house the pre-1900 buggy given to us by Paul Dwork. It had been displayed in his pharmacy for many years. As a "medicine buggy" it features pharmacy tools and bottles — also given to us by Paul of *Merlin's Medical Supply Pharmacy* fame.

JOSIE CABRERA CARDENAS

“Barrio Families, “The Barrio People”

This is the story of Josie Cabrera Cardenas as told to Joy Todd. Josie and her daughters, Terry and Anita, contributed to the interview. Josie raised twelve children.

Arriving in California from Mexico, where Josie was born September 11, 1922, the family first lived in Los Angeles, moved to Santa Paula (when Josie was 2), then Somis, and settled on the Lewis Ranch 1927-1929. They were always driven by where the work was. The family picked cotton, oranges, lemons, (for Adolfo Camarillo) and did any other work that was needed. Josie’s father worked on the Lewis Ranch until 1935. The Cabrera home was on Las Posas between W. Loop and Anacapa. There were not a lot of streets at that time. It had 2 small bedrooms and a larger added room that was for “the boys”. There was one bathroom and a washer.

Her parents purchased a home on Barry St and a family member still lives in this home that was moved from the Heights to the Barry St. lot. Josie worked as a house cleaner for the Petit family. She was not responsible for the food, they did their own cooking, but she did the cleaning. Her mother worked in a packing house and at “the base” after she had children. The children moved out of her parents’ home, almost as a new one was coming along. Her brothers went into the service and to work which made room for Josie and her 3 children.

After marrying, Josie’s family lived on Arneill in what was called a “double duplex.” A brake company now occupies that property. Josie still lives on Barry St. just a block from her parents’ home. She and her husband purchased that house in 1976 from the Petits.

The men worked as braceros and would be gone for a period of time to where the work was. Josie would visit her husband if he was in a place she could get to. The Barrio was a community insulated from development. People lived and died in their homes and community. Everyone knew everyone and would help each other. The Arneills had a lima bean field where the Chevron station is today. They let the community of the Barrio use it for baseball games.

The Community Center on Ventura Blvd. was used by the 7th and 8th grade students for Friday night dances. They had 45 rpm records they had purchased.

They would rent a room at the Community Center and dance. The Fulton St. Bridge was a direct line to the Fire Station/Community Center. When the bridge was taken down for the freeway they had to walk to Arneill and across the bridge then back down to the center.

The Barrio was home. They remember the A&W root beer drive-in and Foster Freeze on the corner. At PV school they took tumbling classes. Cooley’s Drug purchased Poggi’s on the corner by the school. (later, Cooley’s would move to Las Posas and Arneill)

There was a small camp for workers on the corner of what is now Daily and Lewis. It had rooms, but there was only one bathroom for all the people. Mike Dizdar had a restaurant beside the Catholic Church. Josie thinks the house is still there.

In the 1950s, Pleasant Valley School practiced “corporal” punishment: they would have their hands hit with a ruler if they offended the teacher. Looking back, both of her daughters think they were very naive. They worked to “just keep still” and not draw attention or “misbehave”. It was more difficult for Terry, because she liked to talk. Josie graduated 8th grade from PV School. It was interesting that they also had a crossing guard at the intersection of major streets and the children loved him.



Josie at her 99th birthday

(Continued next page)

(Continued)

When Josie was at PV School, the police department's office was in the school. The children walked by it all the time. This was before the present school was built. The road to Ventura was just dirt, Fulton was not paved. Josie said that all the students came together at lunch time. The farmers' children had sandwiches while Josie and her friends had burritos. Friendships started from exchanging lunch food. Some classes separated the Hispanics from the local farm children. Once again, they were naïve and did not really care that they had different classes.

In the 1950s or so, a family moved in down the street near the market. They had 3 houses and were very rough. They gave the area a "not so healthy" reputation. The Cabrera families stayed away from that area. Josie does not remember what happened to them, but they moved away or were assimilated into the community and changed their ways. The closeness of the community was something everyone valued. There was a bakery store on Ventura Blvd. and the owner would give the children free cookies when they stopped by on their way home from school. All agree, it was a happy life.

President's Message

It has been an exciting quarter for the Museum. A special thank you goes to Noella Belvedere and her family for hosting a night at Ottavio's. Noella wrote us a check for \$11,000. Everyone had a great time and the food was spectacular, as usual. The money is for our building fund.

I hope you have had a chance to see "The Adventures of Raggedy Andy" on Facebook [Pleasant Valley Historical Society] and his "10-second Challenges!" Eric Bergh has done an amazing job of creating the story of Andy and we will be following him as the building program begins to happen. He will lead us through the progress. Please share his adventures with all your friends and family.

June brought a \$7,000 grant from Meadowlark for the building fund. They are contributing to the new accession room in the museum building. We appreciate their continued support of the museum and gardens.

We continue to get support from Pleasant Valley Lions, not just in man power but funds, too. This past month they sent another \$1,500, and Amber's Light has been purchasing bricks! Camarillo Rotary gave us a grant last year and Max Copenhagen has overseen the building of custom-made bookcases for our Children's Corner and the purchase of books and chairs. Thank you all.

We welcomed 2 new board members, Mary Goldberg and Beth Miller. Both of these ladies have been working with us the past years and their knowledge, energy and enthusiasm are really appreciated.

The adventure before us is the renovation and construction of our museum. We need to raise almost another \$1 million to finish our new building. Your help is needed! We have an amazing history and future to present to the community. The experience of the past few years has helped us understand the need there is for our collections and the stories we have to tell. The enthusiasm of both school children and adult visitors has inspired us to try even harder with our display rotations and varied programs.

Even though the building isn't available right now, we are taking our collections to groups and doing programs in the community. The garden is open on Saturdays and we are still having groups meet in the gazebo. We still have our resident butterflies and caterpillars!

We hope to see you all at the Don & Doña Barbeque September 17, 2022

New Collections



Although the museum is closed, our volunteers have been very busy. We have received 2 new collections. The first was the *Joyce Wallace Olszewski Collection* – individual bronze and silver miniatures made in Camarillo. History moving forward, Bob Olszewski lived in Camarillo and was an art teacher at Haydock MS for 10 years at which time he partnered with Goebel and opened his own business on Dawson Drive, known as *Goebel Miniatures*. Joyce Wallace also gave us a magnificent Easton Press collection of books which we are working to process at this time and the complete Easton Press Roger Tory Peterson Field Guide books.



We received a large Civil War collection from W. Lee Truman, a retired local Methodist minister. It was a great learning experience for us. Were you aware of the California regiment that fought for the Union? We will have more on this one too.



Announcement

Lloyd Christie would like to find a home for a perfect replica of the A. Camarillo Ranch house. This was used on a Lion's Club float for the Christmas parade for many years. It is mounted on plywood and is approximately 76" x 50." Contact Lloyd 805-857-8950.

“BE PART OF HISTORY”



Andy

For more information
as to how YOU can
"Be Part of History"
and help us meet our
goal for the
community, contact us
at:

PVHS@pvhsonline.org

June
Ground
Breaking
Ceremony
(right)

We need your help to raise the funds to complete the renovation and expansion of the museum. We recently received grants from the Meadowlark Service League and the City of Camarillo.

--Individuals, families, businesses, or organizations can help us meet our goals.

--Bricks can be purchased using the form in this *ECHO*

--Donations may be made on-line.

--Part of our plan is a major donation funding program with naming rights for portions of the museum expansion and renovation.



From a 1927 Ventura County Promotion Brochure

The facts and Statistics of the time:

- Population: 45,000 (Camarillo township had 1,250 people)
- Annual Oil Production: 18,250,000 Bbls.
- Annual Crop Report Total: \$15,000,000

Among 14 Counties in Southern California is –

- 1st in Beans; 2nd in Dried Apricots; 2nd Lemons; 2nd in Walnuts; 3rd in Sugar Beets; 6th in Oranges
- Of 58 Counties in the state, Ventura County is 26th in size and 32nd in farm property; 4th in farm value per acre; 10th in farm products; 11th in value of the farm property.

MEMORIALS

Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer

donated in memory of:

***Marilyn Adams, Mimi Allman, Marilyn Bjork, Tom Blattel, Barbara Coffman, Bruce Colell,
Tom Faragher, Linda Frantz, John Kerwin, Caroline Lescher, Johnnie Menchaca, Abbie Pizzo, Betty Reel***

Linda J. Broatch donated in memory of Kathleen Faye Morris Wysinger

Diane Mendoza donated in memory of Chuck Andrews

John & Beverly Pearson donated in memory of Chuck Andrews and Caroline Lescher

Adele Walsh donated in memory of her parents, Adele & Jim Flynn

TRIBUTES

Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer

donated in honor of:

***David & Helen Faul's 62nd Anniversary, Bill & Raelene Manzer's 62nd Anniversary
Gerald & Joan Olson's 64th Anniversary, Dr. Lee & Dr. Ruth Truman's 70th Anniversary***

Beverly Taylor donated in honor of Ted & Val Rains' 66th Anniversary

BUILDING and other DONATIONS

Donations received SINCE the April 2022 ECHO

<i>Jeanne Adams</i>	<i>Noella Belvedere</i>	<i>Angele Blanton</i>	<i>Ana Blattel</i>
<i>Steve Blois</i>	<i>Gail Brockett</i>	<i>Camarillo Amber's Light Lions Club</i>	
<i>Rosemary Chavoya</i>	<i>Rene Cobb</i>	<i>Elizabeth Cole</i>	<i>Gail DeWolfe</i>
<i>Jane Douglas</i>	<i>Beverly Dransfeld</i>	<i>Ron & Janet Everett</i>	
<i>Tom & Joan Faragher</i>	<i>Filipino-American Association of Camarillo</i>	<i>Bob & Olivia Fulkerson</i>	
<i>Paul & Peggy Graham</i>	<i>Rod & Doris Harvey</i>	<i>Joey Hernandez</i>	<i>Joanne Kennedy</i>
<i>Jim & Nedra Kindig</i>	<i>Jonathan Light</i>	<i>Hillary & Stella Ling</i>	
<i>Mark and & Terry Lisagor</i>	<i>Craig Loft</i>	<i>Donna Lutz</i>	<i>Mark & Kathleen Malloy</i>
<i>Tom & Eileen Maloney</i>	<i>Laura McAvoy</i>	<i>Ed McCarthy</i>	
<i>Meadowlark Service League</i>	<i>Anne Megowan</i>	<i>Diane Mendoza</i>	
<i>Native Sons of the Golden West Parlor 272</i>		<i>John & Beverly Pearson</i>	<i>Lynne Peterson</i>
<i>Fred Phipps</i>	<i>Pleasant Valley Lions Club</i>	<i>Louise Roberts</i>	<i>K.T. Silver</i>
<i>Philip Smith</i>	<i>Janet Spasiano</i>	<i>Carol Spracklen</i>	<i>Becky Spring</i>
<i>Lyda Sprinkles</i>	<i>Judy Takashima</i>	<i>Mike & Catherine Taniguchi</i>	<i>David Tennesen</i>
<i>Rev. Lee & Ruth Truman</i>	<i>Don Valenzano</i>	<i>Chris Valenzuela</i>	<i>Nancy Varosky</i>
<i>Janna Visser</i>	<i>Joanne & David Vizents</i>	<i>Ken & Cathy Waltrip</i>	<i>Margaret Pat Wise</i>

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

We are so pleased with many supporters who raised their support level this year, or joined for the first time. Thank you! Show your support with your 2022 calendar year membership, starting at only the cost of a lunch, \$25! You can go online to our website, www.pvhsonline.org, push the MEMBERSHIP button, and make your choice. We have no paid employees, funds are used for operating expenses.

PVHS Board Members 2022-2023

David Bratz
Michael Ellias
David Hibbits
Beth Miller
Betty Sullivan

Max Copenhagen
Karin Farrin
Bill Manzer
Beverly Pearson
Valerie Tackett

Gail DeWolfe
Bob Fierro
Raelene Manzer
John Pearson
Bill Todd

Terry DeWolfe
Mary Goldberg
Betty Jo McDonald
Paul Rockenstein
Dr. Renee Whitlock

PVHS Board of Directors 2022-2023

Joy Todd, *President*
Greg Farrin, *Vice President*
Bob Rust, *Treasurer*
Debbie Thiessen, *Recording Secretary*

Liz Daily, *Corresponding Secretary*
Bob Burrow, *Immediate Past President*
Ira Grooms, *Member at Large*
Gerry Olsen, *Parliamentarian*

PVHS Standing Committees for 2022-2023

Finance: Bob Rust
Communications: Max Copenhagen
Garden: Betty Jo McDonald
Events: Beth Miller

Museum Operations: Greg Farrin
Accessions: Joy Todd
Facilities: Bob Burrow
Finance Recorder: Bill Todd

Museum Expansion Fundraising: Sponsoring a Personalized Brick

The Personalized Brick Fundraising Campaign is doing its part in the Museum Expansion Fundraising program. Since the Personalized Brick Campaign launch in July of 2021 over 137 Bricks have already been ordered. The popularity of the Personalized Bricks will continue to escalate all through the Expansion Project. Sponsoring a Personalized Brick today will ensure delivery with the first batch of bricks to be delivered, and secure an early prime location for the displaying of your brick.

Sponsoring a personalized brick, a 4" x 8" brick which will be located and displayed at the PVHS Museum outdoor location, is more than a \$200 donation to the PVHS Museum Expansion fund:

- 1) A brick can be personalized with your name, and/or your family's name, allowing you to be part of the PVHS Museum history.
- 2) Or, a brick can be personalized to honor anyone, or anything, you want to be remembered.

The form to reserve and sponsor a personalized brick is shown on the following page (page 9).



PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM EXPANSION

Location of
Personalized
Bricks



"Be a Part of History"

Reserve a place in PVHS Museum history by sponsoring a personalized brick.

You may sponsor a brick in your name, or to honor anyone/anything you want to be remembered.

PLEASE PRINT, maximum 16 spaces per line, including blank spaces and punctuation. All inscriptions will be centered and capitalized. Filler in the engraved area will provide a permanent contrast and protect the quality of the engraving.

Enclosed is my \$200.00 contribution for a 4" x 8" paver with up to three lines of text.

Make checks payable to *Pleasant Valley Historical Society*; or to use PayPal, please visit our website at *pvhsonline.org* and use the DONATE button at the top of the webpage.

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Please mail this completed form to: PVHS
Attn: Personalized Brick
PO Box 570
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570

The mission of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society and Garden is to acquire, identify, restore and preserve artifacts, documents and photographs related to the Pleasant Valley community; to make the museum and garden a focal point for the dissemination of local history and education of the general public, and to recognize local residents who have provided outstanding service to the Pleasant Valley community.



PLEASANT VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1964

Location: 720 Las Posas Road, Camarillo
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Email: pvhs@pvhsonline.org
Website: pvhsonline.org
Newsletter Editor: Manny Hatz



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Search: pleasant valley historical society



July 2022

Thank you to Ivy Lawn for providing a very generous grant for printing costs of the Echoes and other materials.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Pleasant Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 570
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570
Museum Open: Saturday
12 noon to 4 p.m.