

# *The Echo*

## News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

### 2017 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:

**Karen Allen**

**Ana Maria Blattel**

**Martin Daly**

**Rita Faulders**

**Dante Honorico**

**Grace Martinez**

**Mrs. Gloria Miele**

**Gloria Miele Ph.D**

**David Schlangen**

**Jerry Scott**

They will be introduced to the community on *Saturday, September 2*, at a barbeque and Silent Auction which will be held at the Camarillo Community Center for the second time. The Center has the advantages of more space, air conditioning and better parking. The barbeque-style meal will be catered by Bruce Jochums Barbeque and will include tri-tip and Hawaiian 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 highly anticipated events in town; the honorees are respected pillars of the community; 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. for a social hour, the honorees will be introduced at 2 p.m., meal service follows.

### The Juan Camarillo Collection

Our thanks to Fr. Tom Elewaut of Mission San Buenaventura and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for the permanent loan of mementos of Juan E. Camarillo's life. They are currently on display at our museum.

Providing the land, securing the architect, A.C. Martin, and donating the costs, Juan was responsible for the St. Mary Magdalen Chapel, known as the Chapel on the Hill, which was completed in 1914. The east wing was designated as a museum to house his collection of Chumash baskets

## JUAN CAMARILLO COLLECTION *Continued from Page 2*

and memorabilia of his life and travels. He left the Chapel to the Franciscan brothers who held it until 1940 when the Archdiocese of Los Angeles had need of the building for a church in Camarillo.

In 1976, Juan's artifacts were moved to Mission San Buenaventura. Today they are at our museum where we hope they will shed a light on the generous and loving spirit of Juan Camarillo (1867—1936), younger brother of Adolfo. His baskets and religious items remain at the Mission.

Juan maintained a home in Ventura where he lived with his mother until her death in 1898. He was an Assistant Manager of *The White House* in Ventura, a mercantile store. He was a member of the Monumental Fire Department, an all-volunteer force, one of the first in California. In 1901, he built a home in Camarillo near the present intersection of Adolfo and Flynn Roads.

As a landowner and a good business man, he was able to travel throughout the world. He visited the Holy Land in 1907 and was photographed in the garden of Gethsemane with a Catholic father. Juan was made a Knight of St. Sylvester by Pope Pius XI in 1927, the first American to be given this honor.

Over a period of thirty years, he traveled in Europe, Mid-East and Latin America and collected artifacts to bring back to his "museum." Juan lived mainly in Cosquin and Buenos Aires, Argentina from 1916 to 1935. He was a benefactor there, helping the children with their education. He rented a theatre so the children might have free movies. He also traveled to Chile.

Tio Juan, an honorary "uncle" to youngsters and other relatives, was known as a kind and generous man. Raquel Hernandez Latham, a long time member of the Society's Board of Directors and a Doña, grew up living in his home. She called him her favorite Tio. He loved spending time with his nieces, nephews and cousins.

Known as a philanthropist, he gave land for St. John's Seminary in 1927. He donated money to the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church to purchase land and left them an additional \$5,000 in his will. At the time of his death, his estate was valued at over \$1,250,000. He left money for the building of the Camarillo Community Center and his brother, Adolfo, donated the land.



The museum has a copy of his Will and numerous papers that belonged to him. A diary displays a selected reference to his traveling in San Francisco, a 3-day adventure by train.

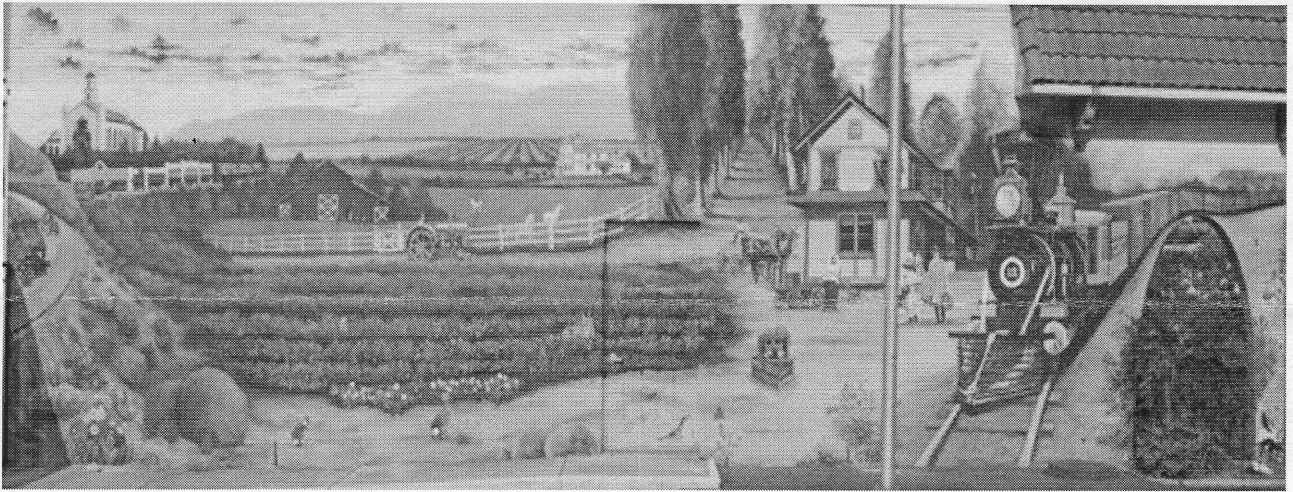
*Fr. Tom with the Juan Camarillo display*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a busy few months. We have a wonderful display of telephones in the Museum; we gave some phones to other museums and theaters; we had a successful telephone auction; we have space in our storage containers again and we put some money in the bank! Thanks to Joy and Bill Todd for all their research, organization and hard work in getting this done! This project demonstrates that we are a responsible custodian for legacy materials.

We have over 2000 historical photographs in our collection. What about home movies? If you have old photos or movies showing the Camarillo area, please consider adding them to our collection. The mural is done and is attracting a lot of attention. Just what we wanted! One of the goals was to improve visibility of the museum and it is sure doing that. Artist Lisa Kelly depicted a scene from the early days when Camarillo was just a whistle stop on the Southern Pacific railroad line. When you view it from the parking lot, you will see a lot of fun images that this picture could not capture.



We were pleased to award the Stan Daily Scholarship prize to Madison McCardell, a graduating senior at Rio Mesa High. Her essay will be printed in the program booklet for the Don and Doña Barbeque.

Living History Day was a big success. We counted 180 visitors and over 50 volunteers. That's impressive. Thanks to Pat Roth and Liz Daily for organizing the event.

At the recent annual meeting, we agreed to revise our By Laws to clarify roles and improve the efficiency of the organization. I want to thank the Board and all committee members for continuing to be actively involved in our good work. We are staying focused on our mission and getting things done.

We have been given a grant by the **Meadowlark Service League**. Their fund raisers make such donations possible. The next one is **A Taste of Camarillo on Sunday, July 30 at the Camarillo House**. We urge you to attend.

## LIVING HISTORY DAY, 2017



*In the foreground, a young visitor enjoys a ride on "Keg-asus," an antique rocking horse. At the table, Bill Conn demonstrates woodworking.*

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 had fun making button toys, cornhusk dolls, wheat grinding, panning for gold, making tortillas, churning butter and lots more. These were among the 22 stations open on this day and it was a delight to see the parents having as much fun as their children.

A number of visitors went out of their way to express how much they appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the various events. Many of the children and some of the adults were happy to show off the things they had

made and we were happy to enjoy it with them. A total of 230 adults and kids attended. We appreciate all of the returning volunteers who made it happen plus newcomers Robin and Steve Foster, Hailey Abell, Janna Visser, Luci Pommers and Ada Lee Sullivan. Plan on joining in on the fun next May.

Thanks to all who participated. Pat Roth and Liz Daily.

### NEW DISPLAYS AT THE MUSEUM

The Doctorman Antique Telephone exhibit continues to attract visitors. Former telephone company employees have expressed appreciation for our extensive collection as they visit for the first time.

A new display case documents the time-line history of the Pleasant Valley. A limited but large selection of hard-back books of historical interest to the area is now available at very reasonable prices. Also for sale are a number of copies of *The Ventura County Historical Society Quarterly* for 50 cents each. They contain fascinating articles written by local authors. Visitors are offered a free commemorative postcard of our beautiful outside mural recently dedicated to the "Pioneers of Pleasant Valley."

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues are a major part of the Society's budget. While receiving the *Echo* each quarter keeps you informed of museum activities and interesting stories, it does not mean that you are "a member." Dues are calendar based annually, but are accepted throughout the year. If you have not previously joined, please consider it now. Information is on our website or by mail to the Museum at P.O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011.

### CONSIDER DOCENTING

Personal training is available for interested members to assist museum visitors. Consider asking a mate or a friend to work with you. Currently, we have five couples that share their duties. With increased numbers of visitors on the weekends, it is beneficial to have two assisting the public. Indicate your interest by e-mailing PVHS at [pvhsonline.org](mailto:pvhsonline.org).



## SUMMER EVENTS

It is that time of year when our Garden looks even nicer with all the plants showing off and the butterflies abundant. It is the perfect place for summer events.

We kicked off in June with our annual business meeting, which was followed by a very interesting history lesson from Jack Norris. He was instrumental in supporting the 1986 Voyager flight which traveled around the world in nine days without landing a single time. That was a record breaking feat.

On July 16, we will be presenting the second Bee and Butterfly Day with demonstrations and guest speakers. See Page 6 for full details about this event.

On August 3 at 6:30 p.m., we will have our third Speaker Series offering. Details for that presentation are still being worked on. We can say that it will focus on stories about the history of the area along with refreshments to follow.

Our final program of the summer will be on September 10 at 2 p.m. This afternoon presentation will feature Jeff Maulhardt, a noted local historian and author. He will speak about the history of Oxnard, including the sugar beet operations which were so much an important element of the community at the time.

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.

## MEMORIALS

Donations in memory of **Barbara Fulkerson** have been made by:

Linda Hunt, Scott Powell, Roland Bauer, Yvonne Gill Westervelt, Rick McGrath, Bob and Sandy Coultas, Roz McGrath, Marcia Donlon, Lisa Packard, Shirley Randall, Liz Daily, Mike and Evelyn Williams, Mary Lou Ash, Pat Wise, Debra Thiessen and family, Adele Stuebing Walsh and family, Nancy Worthington, Carrie Warren, Bill Todd, Tom and Karen Pecht, Kaaren Wuertz, Judy McGrath, Patti Marshall, Robert and Tracy Nolan, Meadowlark Service League, M. Nishimori Farms

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer contributed in memory of **Carl Wuest, Richard Declusin, Dr. Philip Maurice, Maxine Gamboni, Kathy Vargeson, Jack Ellis, Isabell Nunes, Imogene Gregory, Kristopher Wong, Margaret Rambo.**

Pat Wise contributed in memory of **Isabell Nunes.**

Liz Daily gave in memory of **Jack Ellis.**

Carol Lambert gave in memory of **Ted Lambert.**

## HONORARIUMS

Bev Yaeger made a contribution in celebration of **Kathleen Montgomery's** birthday.

Fred Phipps and Cathy Trainer gave in honor of **Max Copenhagen and Barbara Wagner's** Top Ten Awards.

Mary, J.R., Jim and Dawn Buzzell-Cushway donated in honor of **John R. Buzzell** for help in restoring the Allis-Chalmers tractor

Liz Daily made an in-kind donation to Living History Day.

## CHARLES HONN MEMORIAL GARDEN

### *Betty Jo McDonald, Garden Chair*

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society will present their second annual day to welcome butterflies and native California bees to the garden.

Come join us on Sunday, July 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Charles Honn Memorial Garden to learn more about these wonderful creatures, how to attract them and how to plant bee and butterfly friendly plants.

Our guest speakers will be Christopher Jadallah, native bee specialist from UC Berkeley, and Lynne and Rick Krause, experts on the care and feeding of butterflies.

Try to imagine our modern world without apples, pears, citrus fruits, carrots, grapes, olives, tomatoes and almonds. Then try to imagine our California wildlands devoid of beautiful spring wild flowers. We know you can't imagine the world without chocolate so we won't even ask. Most of our temperate vegetables, fruit and nut crops, along with most of our wildland flowers, depend on the pollinating services of bees.

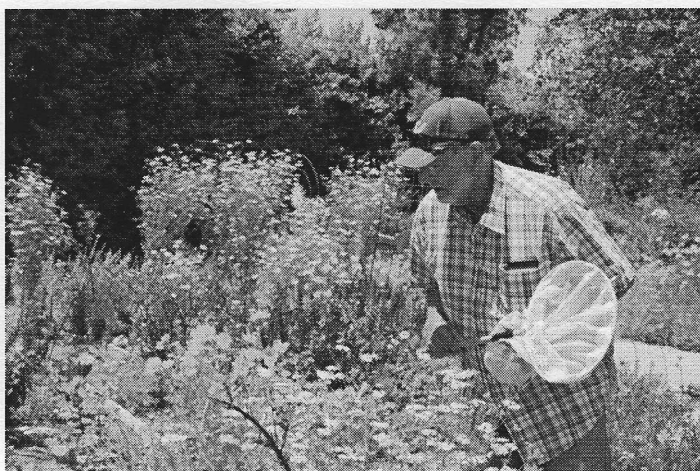
Christopher Jadallah will talk on the native bees who frequent home gardens and will help visitors find and identify native bees as we walk through our garden. He works with Urban Bee gardeners in northern California and conducts research in Costa Rica. Bees are hard pressed to find food and shelter for reproducing. Unlike other species of bees, our native bees do not live in hives; he will show the kind of habitats that are suitable.

Lynn Krause is from "This is a Monarchy." She will speak about Monarch butterflies, their life cycle and their needs and how to plant a garden for them. Milkweed and nectar plants are among their favorites; we know because our garden has both and they attract native bees as well as butterflies.

We will be giving away seed packets to attract beneficial insects and pollinators to your garden and information packets for teachers to start school butterfly gardens. There will also be crafts for the children to do.

In addition, we will have butterfly and bee friendly plants, books and packs of native wildflower seed mix and pollinator plants for sale.

The event is open to the public without charge and promises to offer a fun time for the whole family. For more information, call (805) 482-3660 or visit our website: [www.pvhsonline.org](http://www.pvhsonline.org)





## Board of Directors 2017-2018

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Roger Putnam

Betty Sullivan

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Bob Fierro

Dr. Renee Whitlock Higgins

Ron McCown

Patricia Roth

Valerie Tackett

### Standing Committees for 2017-2018

Finance: Bob Rust; Museum Operations: Bill Todd; Events: Joy Todd; Garden; Betty Jo MacDonald;

Facilities: Bob Burrow; Communication: Betty Sullivan.

*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.*

#### THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Invites you to DINE OUT at



1620 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

On Tuesday, September 5,

From 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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

#### THE PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

invites you to

DINE OUT on Tuesday, August 1 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.