

# The Echo

## News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

### We Welcome Our Newest Dons and Doñas

The doors of the Red Barn at the Camarillo House opened wide to welcome the more than 250 guests who came to celebrate with our newest Dons and Doñas and enjoy a feast of tri-tip, beans, salad and garlic bread. If you were not there, you missed a wonderful event and we hope to see you next year. We have 10 new men and women who, we think you will agree, are more than worthy of following in the footsteps of our past honorees. They are:

Left to right: Donald Reeder, Paul Rockenstein, Jeanette Jennett, Kay Wigton, Bob Taylor, Ray and Linda Abbott, Al Lowe, Patricia Richards Dodds, Gary Cushing.

Photo by Albert Mis-  
evic



**Linda Abbott** has lived, worked and volunteered in this community for 37 years. She worked primarily as an OB/GYN nurse at Los Robles and Pleasant Valley hospitals. While working and raising a family, she was active in the PTA, in Bluebirds, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and as a boys' and girls' soccer and softball coach. She was a Board Member of the PONY Baseball Assn. and a Division Director for AYSO. In 1986, she joined the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club where she won the "Spark Plug" Award for her effort on a number of club projects such as "Student of the Month," "Optimist Speech Contest," "Christmas Baskets" and others. She and husband Ray raised five children, all of whom still call Camarillo home.

**Ray Abbott** worked for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department until 1996, retiring as Chief of the Camarillo Station. Here, he gave the Citizens Patrol a more active role in Community Based Policing, started our city's first Disaster Aide Response Team (DART), worked with the City staff and Council on a study that culminated in the current police facility on Las Posas Road. As a volunteer, he was on the Boys' and Girls' Club Board of Directors for five years, Community chair for the United Way for four years, served the Boy Scouts at the district and troop level for 15 years, and helped start the Noontime Optimist Club, serving as its president locally and as Lieutenant Governor for the Pacific Southwest District. He and his wife Linda have been married for 47 years.

**Gary Cushing** has been a business owner in Camarillo for over twenty years. His experience with issues related to business operations encouraged him to start Cushing Public Affairs in 2012 to represent businesses to government entities. His community involvement includes membership in the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce for fifteen years, including two terms as Chair, Ventura County Tax Payers Assn., Boys' and

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## **DONS AND DOÑAS FOR 2013, Continued from Page 1**

Girls' Club Advisory Board, Camarillo Hospice Advisory Board, Camarillo Health Care District Advisory Board, and more. He and his wife, Julie, and their eight children have lived in our community a long time. They now have added nine grandchildren to the family.

**Patricia Richards Dodds** and her late husband, Dick Richards, moved to Camarillo in 1965. While raising three sons and working as a banking executive for twenty years, she wanted to get back to her passion – art. She has had many school and community art exhibitions and prizes. In 2007, she was recognized as an “Artist in the Community” by the Ventura County Arts Council. She was one of the founding members of the Studio Channel Islands Art Center. She has been involved with many local non-profit organizations and served on the CSUCI Foundation Board. Her many citations include being named Woman of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce, CSUCI's Lagomarsino Award and the Boys and Girls Club Joel McCrear Award.

**Jeannette Jennett** served as a second lieutenant during the Korean War, completed college after the war and moved here to work at Point Mugu. It was there that she met and married her husband, Norman, and together, they had six children. While her family was young, she was a very active volunteer, becoming a charter member of the Camarillo Branch of AAUW, a “story lady” at the library, and president of the Ventura County Symphony League. She received her teaching credential in 1971 and taught English and Journalism at Camarillo High School. She retired from the Oxnard Union High School District's staff development office in 1999. She is active in PEO and serves on the steering committee of the Social Justice Fund.

**Albert Lowe** grew up in Oxnard. He graduated from college with an engineering degree and became a general contractor, starting his own construction company in 1979. Al Lowe Construction has been recognized as one of the principal builders and remodelers for hospitals in the South/Central Coast. He is dedicated to church and community service. He was named Volunteer of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce in 1996, was Rotarian of the Year in 2000 and received Casa Pacifica's Guardian Angel Award in 2006. He has been on the Food Share Advisory Board, on the Camarillo Health Care District Advisory Panel and had been co-chair of the Kids Golf Classic, which has raised over \$1,000,000 for Casa Pacifica. He and his wife, Petra, have five children and five grandchildren.

**Donald Reeder's** grandparents came to California 1886. They first leased, then bought farming land and have been a farming family ever since. Don has been farming since he was nine years old, first for his uncles, then moving into customer farming for Pro Ag, now as a consultant to C & R Ranch Management. He is active in the community on many boards in the field of agriculture, among them the Sunkist Board, the Avocado Marketing Board, Ventura Pacific Lemon Company Board, the Ventura County Farm Bureau, Metropolitan Water District Blue Ribbon Committee and others. He is past president/toastmaster of the Saticoy Lions. He and his wife, Bonnie, have two children and five grandchildren.

**Paul Rockenstein's** involvement with the community started soon after he moved here over 30 years ago. He was instrumental in establishing and developing Camarillo Hospice and serving as president from 1975-1985. He served on the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District Board from 1995-2012 where he oversaw the renovation of the Aquatic Center, the development of Freedom Park and the implementation of the Sports Fields. He has been a member of the Camarillo Health District Board, the Ventura County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Ventura County Parks and Recreation Board, and others. He and his wife, Michael Ann, have four children and four grandchildren.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### WHO IS YOUR NEW PRESIDENT – FRANKLIN D. ROTH?

The last ECHO was published before I was officially elected as your President and therefore could not really talk to you as your President. I have received some inquiries from members of the Society who said that they really didn't know who I was and wanted to know a little about where I came from and what I did all of my life. I am taking this opportunity to say a few words so that you will know me better.

One President of our country and I have one thing in common. We both have been call "FDR." I was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri as the 8<sup>th</sup> child in my family. Unfortunately my youngest brother passed away at birth and I therefore was raised as the baby of the family and was spoiled not only by my parents but also by my older sisters. I graduated from Southeast Missouri University with majors in Physics and Mathematics and a minor in Accounting and later I became an Electronic Engineer. I married a young outstanding and extraordinary girl named Patricia J. Palmer and we have just celebrated our 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She too continues to spoil me. We have three wonderful children, one daughter and two sons, and four outstanding grand children who think that we can walk on water and I assure them that I can as long as it is frozen.

Pat and I have lived in Camarillo over 51 years and we love the people and the community. I retired in 1992 from the Pacific Missile Range (Pt. Mugu) after 31 years of service. I was Head of the Range Programs Management Division responsible for all of the Program Managers and Operations Managers of all aircraft, ship, missile and satellite programs that conducted operations on the Range.

I continue to be active and presently spend most of my time doing volunteer work, primarily in the areas of helping children and homeless people in the community, such as:

- No Room At The Inn – An ecumenical group that displays Nativity sets and has contributed over \$330,000 to the homeless in the county. I have been Treasurer and a Director since we started 20 years ago.
- Camarillo Academic Olympics – Started in 1984 and I have been Chair and now Co-chair for the past 13 years and have been heavily involved since the second event. Next year will be our 17<sup>th</sup> event. It is a program which offers a fun academic competition in ten subject areas and a SuperQuiz, for all 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. We reward and recognize the children by giving thousands of ribbons, certificates and medals for the top six individuals in the city in each subject. Approximately 2,500 children participate in each CAO event.
- Noontime Optimist Club of Camarillo – Past President and present Board member. We strive to develop optimism as a way of life, by giving of ourselves in service to help others, primarily the youth of our community. We honor and recognize outstanding youth in many different ways throughout the year.
- United Methodist Church – Member since 1962 and served as Treasurer for 25 years and on the Administrative Board and various Committees for the past 50 years.

Pleasant Valley Historical Society & Museum – Board Member and now President. What can I say about this group of outstanding people, who want to make sure that the history of Camarillo and the community is not lost and will continue to be available to all who live here now and forever more in the future. I can not tell you how proud I was the day that the Society honored and recognized me as a "Don" of Camarillo.

Enough is enough, I am sure that is more than you ever wanted to know about me.

Frank

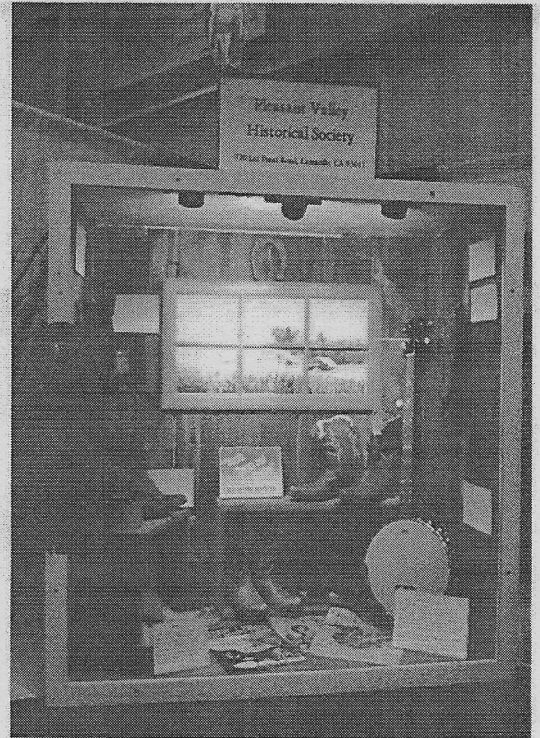
## THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM

### WE WENT TO THE FAIR THIS YEAR - AND SCORED A BLUE RIBBON

The Fair management invites museums and historical interest groups to prepare shadow boxes which encompass the year's theme with a slant toward education and local history.

In December, the Fair Board decided the theme for this year which was "Boots, Barns and Banjos." We submitted an application along with a sketch of what we hoped to use. After several team creative meetings, thoughts on display items, a mention to the board of the items the team was searching for and the bases were covered. Along the way, a few extra items emerged, and a few had to be eliminated. Finally, it was time to load up the tools and display materials and spend a day in an empty fair barn, ending with an exhibit even better than imagined. The public interest was high and the judges also like the exhibit, awarding it first place out of five entries. Team members were Duane Daily (display items), Liz Daily (creative input, item finder extraordinaire, assembly team), Burt Misevic (creative input, assembly team), Bill and Joy Todd (display items) and Adele Walsh (display items).

*Article and photo by Burt Misevic*



### DONS AND DOÑAS FOR 2013, Continued from Page 2

**Bob Taylor** has lived in Camarillo since 1994 and hit the ground running from that date with his involvement in our community. He has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce since 1995 and has won multiple Chamber awards since then, including Entrepreneur of the Year in 2006. He is chairman of the Pleasant Valley Education Foundation which supports the Pleasant Valley School District. He was also instrumental in developing CAPE, Camarillo Academy of Progressive Education. CAPE is a charter school sponsored by the Oxnard Union High School District. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club, the Boys and Girls Club, the Rotary Club and the Camarillo High School Foundation.

**Kay Wigton** was manager of the local Santa Barbara Bank and Trust for many years before becoming Senior Vice President for Community Affairs for the Camarillo area. When it became Union Bank, she added the title Ambassador to her resume. She has been a member of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce for six years and is their Vice President in charge of Top Ten Awards, Teacher of the Month and Non-Profit Council. She is the Chamber's Ambassador of the Quarter. She has served on the Camarillo Hospice Board, the Ventura County Leadership Luncheon Steering Committee, the Brain Injury Center Fund Raising Committee and was a Director of the Camarillo Youth Basketball Assn. She and her partner have five girls and five grandchildren.

### DINE OUT NIGHT

Join us at Marie Callendar's Restaurant on Tuesday, November 5 for one of our popular dining out experiences. While you are feasting on any of Marie's special dishes, a percentage of your bill will go toward helping the Museum in its mission. Bring the coupon on Page 7 and bring your family and friends, the more the merrier.

## COMING EVENTS



*"At Home in Camarillo, c.1919"* is the next exhibit series at the PV Museum and Garden. "Treasures of the Early American Home" are now on display inside the Museum. Docents will provide information on events leading up to 1919 that had a lasting effect in our history. Some display cases share this theme. Of interest is the "For What Were These Objects Used?" exhibit. It is an opportunity to discover uses of household items of the period. (*Pictured above.*) Another exhibit contains wedding dresses c. 1900 from the Museum's collection. It is amazing that they have come down through time to share their unique style and elegance.

October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> will be focus days for the period. Typical furnishings for a parlor and kitchen will be on display. Docents will be leading informational discussions of life in the home of the period. In the garden, visitors will be able to experience hands-on stations reflecting events of the home that would happen during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Planning for December, the display committee is asking for the loan of holiday ornaments from 1950 or before. We welcome stories that might accompany a family treasure. All items will be carefully labeled and returned the first of 2014. If you have something to share, please contact Joy Todd, 482-0179.

*Article and photo by Bill Todd*

### MEMORIALS

Fred Phipps made donations in memory of Carolyn Lercari, Elmer Fontes, William Henry, MD and Phyllis Jewel.

### DONATIONS

Keith Kuan of Chester's Asia Restaurant gave \$500.

Rod Gilbert gave \$400 in honor of this year's Dons and Doñas.

We received a grant of \$1,000 from the Heritage Fund.

Full  
5

## CHARLES HONN GARDEN

By Betty Jo MacDonald, Garden Chair

### NATIVE BEES ENRICH OUR CITY GARDENS

Our garden was recently the lucky choice of a visit by a man with a net and a mission.

Gordon Frankie, a Professor of Environmental Science at U.C. Berkley, was here with his net to capture native bees for a closer look; his mission, to study native bees in city landscapes. A short time in our garden yielded 3 tiny native bees, busy gathering nectar and pollen from flowers in the Butterfly garden. Professor Frankie, working with others from U.C. Berkley and U.C Davis to learn more about the occurrence of our native bees in urban gardens, hopes to educate gardeners in ways to increase the number of native pollinators by providing more diversity in our gardens. These mostly tiny creatures often go unnoticed, but they enrich our gardens by adding diversity to the insect life and increase the pollination of flowers and vegetables.

There are over 4,000 species of native bees in the United States and around 1,600 species have been documented in California. As evidence mounts that pollination of crop and wild plants is declining, Frankie and his team are learning how we can help these tiny pollinators make their homes in our gardens. We need to resist the impulse to go for the spray bottle and provide them with a diverse selection of plants. In a research article in California Agriculture, July-September 2009, Frankie's group reported on their on going study of native bees living in urban gardens in locations from Albany and Berkley in Northern California to La Canada in Los Angeles county. They found that city gardens can attract a large number of native pollinators. Their study documented species of bees with plant associations, resulting in a list of favored plants. The frequency of bee visits to urban gardens depends largely on the bees finding their favored plants but nesting sites are also important.

Unlike our more familiar European Honey Bee, most native bees are solitary, so if you invite them into your garden you are not going to find a beehive under your eaves. About 70% of these bees are ground nesting, though some nest in existing wood cavities or rodent burrows. We can help the cavity nesters by placing "bee houses" which are simply scrap lumber with pre-drilled holes. I have noticed these pre-made "solitary bee houses" in garden stores and for sale in garden catalogues and magazines, but if you decide to place one of these little bee homes in your garden you need to be prepared to place it in a place protected from sun and water exposure to protect the baby bees inside.

These solitary bees do not pose a danger to people in the gardens. They do not swarm and are so unobtrusive they are difficult to spot unless you become familiar with them.

Professor Frankie left a beautiful poster of Native Bees Photographs for display in the Garden and Museum. He also has set aside a group of bee favored plants to donate to our garden when he returns to southern California next month. I made reprints of the article on the Research to leave in the Museum for those who are interested. This information and very beautiful poster gives us more opportunity to preserve and educate about our native landscapes.

Plants which will attract a diverse number of native bees include Aster Fricarti, Coreopsis grandiflora, Sea Daisy, Black Eyed Susan, all perennials; Tansy phacelia, rosemary, catnip mint, linaria pupurea, caeanothus, lavendula and mallow.

### WHAT'S NEW IN THE GARDEN?

From Frank Roth, our new president:

"Thanks to Bill Todd and my grandson Sean Patrick Roth for helping me replace the old rotten bridge in the garden. We really didn't know how bad it was until we started tearing it down. We can all feel safe and not have any fear of falling through the new one." He adds, "Please visit the garden soon and walk with confidence across our new bridge."

## Executive Committee 2013-2014

Frank Roth, *President*

Max Copenhagen, *Vice President*

Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

Bill Todd, *Recording Secretary*

Barbara Wagner, *Corresponding Secretary*

Hon. Stan Daily, *Parliamentarian*

David Hibbits, *Member at Large*

Ira Grooms, *Member at Large*

**Board of Directors:** New members were elected at the June 2 Annual Meeting.

Jeanne Adams

Liz Daily

Ira Grooms

David Hibbits

Bill Manzer

Betty Jo McDonald

Carol Pinto

Patricia Roth

Bill Todd

Valerie Tackett

Bob Burrow

Honorable Stanley Daily

Paul Hawblitzel

Dr. Renee Whitlock Higgins

Raelene Manzer

Bill Milligan

Roger Putnam

Bob Rust

Joy Todd

Barbara Wagner

Max Copenhagen

Ted Daniel

Bob Hernandez

John Kitchens

Ron McCown

Albert Misevic

Franklin Roth

Valerie Tackett

Betty Sullivan

### Committee Chairs of PVHS for 2013-2014

Accessions, Display, Cleaning: *Liz Daily*; Annual Meeting, Facilities, Supplies, Grants, Don and Doña Barbeque: *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: *Carol Pinto*; 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 HISTOICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Invites you to

***DINE OUT***

On

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5,**

**FROM 7 A.M. TO 10 P.M.**

At

**MARIE CALLENDAR'S RESTAURANT**

**185 DAILY DRIVE**

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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