

# The Echo

## News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

### 49th Don and Doña Barbeque Set for August 25

It's time again to honor the men and women who, over the years, have made Camarillo and its environs a wonderful place to live. Each of the honorees has contributed far above what is normally expected of a good citizen. Some are sons and daughters of long time area residents; others have made a difference in the community through their professional and volunteer efforts for at least twenty years or more. They will follow in the footsteps of the more than 400 residents honored in the previous 48 years. They are:

**Linda Abbott**  
**Jeannette Jennett**

**Ray Abbott**  
**Al Lowe**  
**Bob Taylor**

**Gary Cushing**  
**Donald W. Reeder**  
**Kay Wigton**

**Pat Richards Dodds**  
**Paul Rockenstein**

They will be honored on Sunday afternoon, August 25, in the Red Barn at the Camarillo Ranch House. Their friends and relatives are invited to join these festive activities, which include a Santa Maria Style Barbeque, a complimentary wine, beer and soda bar and an opportunity to mix and mingle with well-wishers. 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.

Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$15 for children. Paid reservations are available by mail to PVHS, P. O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011-0570. Tickets will be held for you at the door. For more information call Bob Rust at 484-6601. Seating is limited so make your reservations early. Doors open at 1 p.m., honorees announced at 2 p.m., meal service follows.

### OUR EARLY SETTLERS—JOSEPH F. LEWIS



*Biographical material and photos provided by Terrence Tally, Mr. Lewis' great-grandson*

Joseph Francis Lewis was born in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County in 1863. He was a pioneer in the planting of lima beans. In so doing, he went against the judgment, if not the prejudice, of the people who claimed that this bean would not flourish in Ventura County. Of course, history tells us that it became one of the finest and most financially rewarding crops in our county.

His father, Henry Lewis, came to California in 1852. For eight years, he worked in gold mining before moving to Santa Barbara in 1860, where he took up farming, raising corn and barley. In 1868, he was the first to put lima beans in the soil in the United States. He had gotten a few beans from a friend who had dined aboard a ship that had just come from a stopover in Lima, Peru. The friend was so enraptured by these beans that he asked for some of them. The friend then shared the bounty with Henry.

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## JOSEPH LEWIS *Continued from Page 1*

At first, the beans grew very long runners and large vines but, through selection, Henry Lewis developed a vine that would produce more pods around the root of the vine called the crownset. He further developed the beans to where they would produce up to 40 to 80 pound sacks per acre or 3,200 pounds per acre.

Joseph Lewis worked on his father's ranch until 1899, when he rented 260 acres of the Camarillo Ranch and began planting lima beans. Over the years, he developed many new strains of the lima bean that were more easily picked and less thorny and watched production of beans soar from 600 to 700 pounds to the acre to the startling figure of two and a half tons per acre. His holdings eventually grew to 8,200 acres. (California State University, Channel Islands is now on part of his original property.)

He was responsible for the development of machinery that was used in the harvesting of the bean. He remodeled the grain thresher to handle beans. He was the first to add a sacker on the thresher to facilitate the movement of the crop, the first to put wheels on the cultivator and also the first to attach knives to a sled for cutting beans.

Due to his success, many others moved nearby and raised beans on their own farms. As a result, Camarillo became the center of the lima bean industry. Before this, the crops grown locally were mainly barley, corn, apricots, walnuts and wheat.

Joseph's parting with his father was not a happy one and the two were estranged for the rest of their lives. According to a family source, it was so bad that, when Joseph was wealthy enough to have his own train car, he would tell his family to duck down when they rolled through Carpinteria on the way north to avoid any possible gunshots from Henry.

Joseph Lewis was generous with his wealth. He built a home for each of his adult children (a few are still on Lewis Road) and bought each of them their own very expensive Packard automobiles. His favorite grandson was upset because he wanted a Ford. So Joseph sent back all the Packards and bought Model T's. That grandson later rued his request because, of course, Packards were high class and Fords were for the common man.

His grandchildren found him to be cranky and remember that he used to shake his stick at them when they walked by. But he was in such great pain from debilitating arthritis that they did not blame him. When he died in 1926 at age 63, he was laid in state in the great room/parlor of the house downstairs as was the custom in those days. One of the grandchildren, aged 7, went down in the middle of the night and sat with his deceased grandfather and had a long goodbye conversation with him.

The next time you are driving on Lewis Road, remember this early settler who contributed so much to the development of our pleasant valley.



## MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

Fred Phipps donated in memory of **Catherine Post**.

Adele Walsh made a contribution in memory of **Doña Virgene Nuckols**.

The William Milligan family gave in memory of **Robert Bianchi**.

Kohl's Foundation gave a grant in support of Living History Day and Early American School Days.

Meadowlark Service League gave a grant in support of the butterfly garden.



## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

I have been selected to be your next President by the Nominations Committee. However, since this ECHO is being published before the election, which will be held at the Board meeting on July 1, I was told to make the assumption that I will be elected and say a few words in this ECHO.

My name is Franklin D. Roth, but I am just "Frank" to each of you. Should I be officially elected, I want to thank you for the opportunity. I am proud that I belong to the Society and have the opportunity to be your President for this coming year. I love each and every one of you for being a part of PVHS & Museum. I will pray that, with your help, I will not let our efforts for all of the annual events and the future expansion of the museum be diminished. Some efforts that are underway, such as changes/additions to the garden to be a home for more butterflies, looking at ways to make improvements of our displays in the museum, and continuing talking to the City about possible additions to our facilities, just to name a few, will be continued and moved forward.

If anyone has any suggestions of any kind for making improvements to our facilities or how we do things, please let me know. Your idea might be the one that makes a big change in our future. No idea will be considered stupid or dumb on my watch as your President. Honorable Stan will be a hard act to follow but I will give it my best shot. I hope to hear from you and look forward to your continued support to me and for the PVHS & Museum.

I want to "THANK" our outgoing President, Honorable Stanley J. Daily, for his leadership of the Society over these past few years. His knowledge of the Camarillo community is second to none and has been and will continue to be an asset to the continuing development of PVHS & Museum. I know that I will be seeking his guidance regarding issues that we may be facing as we look at the possibilities of expanding our facilities in the future. Again I say on behalf of the Society, "Honorable Stan, thanks for an outstanding job well done."

Although Honorable Stan did thank those Board members who have completed their terms at the Annual Meeting, I would also like to extend my "Thanks" for their contributions to the success of the Society during their tenure on the Board. We hope that they will continue to be a part of our future and will continue to serve on the activities that they have been involved with. "THANKS – SCOTT BAUM, VAL RAINS, TINA SANCHEZ, and ADELE WALSH," we will miss your smiling faces at the meetings.

If you would like to contact me please call (482-3382 home) or (300-1362 cell) and my e-mail is [rothfd@cs.com](mailto:rothfd@cs.com). Please note, however, that I do not read my e-mail every hour and even may miss a day, so don't use e-mail if you need a quick response.

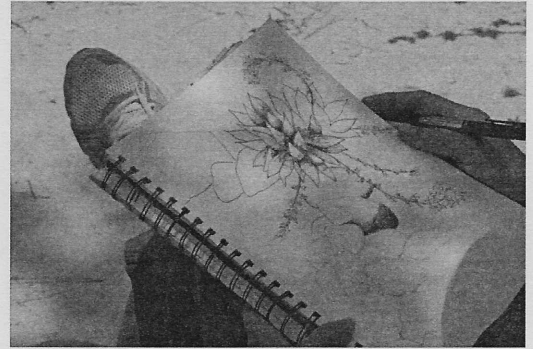
We have another of our popular Dine Outs set at the Texas Cattle Co. on Monday, August 5. I hope that I will see you there and at the Bar-B-Que on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Ranch House, where we will honor some of our wonderful community people and welcome them into our family of Dons and Doñas. I look forward to a great year for PVHS & Museum.

Frank

## THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM

### PAINTERS IN THE GARDEN

On May 3, the PVHS botanical garden had some special (and most appreciative) visitors. A group of local painters came to try to capture the unique beauty and charm of our garden on "canvas." Four members of PAAINT (Plen Air Artists in Nature's Theater) spent five hours sketching and painting. Lois, Lori, Nancy, and Susan each had a different approach and medium for their work. Hopefully, some of their efforts will be on display in our museum.



### WE WILL BE AT THE FAIR AGAIN THIS YEAR

Our Society will again exhibit in the County Fair which runs from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 11<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is Barns, Boots and Banjos. We will be competing for exhibit awards with other museum and historical site groups in our county. Last year was a learning year for the team and as a result we are better prepared for the present challenge. Additional information can be obtained from Liz Daily or Burt Misevic. When at the Fair, be sure to visit the Agriculture and Natural resources Building to see the exhibit.



### NEXT DINE OUT NIGHT IS SET FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 5

We will be sampling the delights at the Texas Cattle Company, 710 Arneill Road on Monday, August 5, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and hope you will join us. You will not need a coupon. Simply tell your server that you are there in support of PVHS and a portion of your check will be credited to the Society. These events help defray the costs of operation of the Museum plus they are fun for all.

### Historical Quiz on the Pleasant Valley, Somis and Santa Rosa Valley by Stan Daily

1. Who was one of the best known actors in Hollywood during the 1940's and 50's, lived in the Santa Rosa Valley and was instrumental in developing the Boys and Girls Club in Camarillo?
2. Who was the first Manager of the Boys Club (later to be the Camarillo Boys and Girls Club)?
3. What is the name of the former saloon in Old Town Camarillo, which had the oldest liquor license in the County of Ventura, dating back to 1906?
4. Pleasant Valley Park on Temple Ave. was named after one of the original founders and longtime board members of the Pleasant Valley Park District?
5. The first Mayor of Camarillo had a street named in his honor when he retired from the City Council. What is the name of this street?
6. What newspaper, first published in the Camarillo area in 1926, was in operation until it was sold in 1997?
7. Who was the last editor of the Camarillo Daily News?
8. What was the former name of the current Ventura County Airport?
9. What was the name of the governmental unit located where CSUCI now stands?
10. By 1906, a family had bought some 8,200 acres of land south of what is now Camarillo and was the largest landowner here for many years. What was the name of that family?



## LIVING HISTORY DAY

*Pat Roth and Liz Daily*

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society again held their Living History Day event on Sunday, May 19, 2013 in the Garden of the museum. Forty-four wonderful and dedicated volunteers brought back a little history of how to make butter, grind wheat to make flour, make tortillas, pan for gold, make dolls, button and butterfly toys, spin wool into thread, polish rocks, and wood work. In addition, representatives from the North and South armies of the Civil War, dressed in their uniforms, demonstrated and displayed some of their weapons and other materials of that period. Old tractor and other farming equipment were also on display in the beautiful garden, full of blooming plants and growing vegetables and berries.

Approximately 150 visitors, many of them children, participated in the hands-on events listed above. All seemed to be having a great and enjoyable time. It made all of our volunteers' "marshmallow" hearts beat a little faster and their eyes sparkled a little brighter as they heard expressions of happiness from the children. "Look what I made!", "See my doll," as they saw the faces of the children light-up with their self-made doll, butterfly or other toys in their hand. None of them were playing with their I-pod or telephones on this afternoon of the Living History Day at the museum garden.

It was an outstanding day and Camarillo can be proud that we have so many wonderful people that volunteer a little of their time to show our great-grandparents and grandparents way of living and playing. We are looking forward to an even a bigger event next year. Thanks to all the volunteers:

Set up and Clean up: Don Daily, Liz Daily, Hon.

Stan Daily Paul Hawblitzel, David Hibbits, Ron McCown, Frank Roth, Pat Roth, Bill Todd

Docents: Terry DeWolfe and Tina Sanchez

Welcome: Jody Daily

Refreshments: Doris Fournier

Gold Mining: Don Daily and Bill Todd

Wash Tub: Loretta Hawblitzel and Pat Roth

Tractor: Bill Milligan

Tortillas: David Hibbits and friends

Magic Wallets: Liz Daily and Danielle Timrott

Civil War: Max Copenhagen (North), Dale and Bobbe Jacobs (South)

Butter Making: Dr. Renee Higgins and Michael Timrott

Bull Rush (String Toy): Carol Pinto and Joan Faragher

Doll Making: Janice Kutin and Betty Sullivan

Wood Working: Ira Grooms and Tom Faragher

Rocks and Gems: Teri Xaverius and friend

Camarillo Quilters: Linda Reynolds and Jo Posca

Hand Weavers : Rosemary Schaefer and friend

Clothes Pin Butterfly Toy: Raquel Latham, Kathy Var-  
geson

Wheat Grinding: Betty Jo McDonald, Janett Whitlock

Bonnets: Charmaine Beaumont

Floating Worker: Barbara Wagner

Cookies: Many of the above

General Support Group: All of the above. If anyone has been missed, please forgive us and know that you, too, are greatly appreciated for what you have done.

Thank You—You, the Volunteers, make this Living History Day event fun and wonderful for all who attend. Thank you all so very, very much for helping make this event so successful.



Don Daily watches a group of youngsters pan for gold.

Bill Todd is the photographer

## CHARLES HONN GARDEN

By Betty Jo MacDonald, Garden Chair

### MEADOWLARK'S AWARD FOR BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The butterfly days are here. The Monarchs have left their overwintering sites along our coast and are now heading out for nectar and to find mates--and also, of course, to find some species of milkweed, where they will lay their eggs. PVHS is happy to have just received a grant of \$500 from the Meadowlark's Service League to help us develop our butterfly garden to provide both nectar and baby food for many species of butterflies. The heart of our butterfly garden is located at the curve in the path across from the vegetable garden. Many other nectar and caterpillar food plants will be located through out the garden and this grant will help us to enlarge the range of food for larvae of many butterfly species. We will also use the funds to develop and print educational material for children visiting the garden. We so much thank the Meadow Lark Service League and all in our group who were involved in applying for the grant--Betty Jo, David Hibbits and Valerie Tackett

If you want to lure butterflies to your garden, here are some plant suggestions and a warning comment:

First the gardening warning: Butterflies flit around our gardens and strike beautiful poses on flowers as they sip nectar; the larval stage is an eating machine and the plants you plant for them will soon be totally eaten, so be prepared. A real butterfly garden will look ragged when the young are in residence.

Some Plant choices for larval food:

Milkweed--the tropical variety is often available at Home Depot and B&B Hardware (necessary for Monarchs to lay eggs)

Dill, parsely, fennel, and rue for Swallow tails

Elm, poplar and willow trees for Mourning Cloak

### The ECHO Reverberates Across the Country

In the last ECHO, I wrote an article about Living History Day, beginning with the first one, which was actually called "Living in History Day" by its creator, a Girl Scout named Sally Brotherton, who used the project for her Gold Award. I was very impressed with her proposal and her report of the project and I kept wondering about her and searched for her on the internet with no luck. I wanted to know where she was and if she could imagine that her project has created an on-going event that children all over Ventura County could enjoy.

I was very happy when we received an e-mail from Sally (Brotherton) LeBlanc saying that she was touched that we remembered her and how happy she was that we continued Living History Day. She is now living in Oregon and has two children and her daughter is a Girl Scout! An ECHO reader sent the article to Sally's mother, who sent it to her! Our little newsletter does get around and I was very excited to know more about this young woman who created one of our favorite events.

### SHARE A LOCAL STORY / RESEARCH CAMARILLO HISTORY

Camarillo history comes alive when we can share personal stories of Pleasant Valley.

Maybe you can tell your family's story, or volunteer to interview a resident who has resided in the area for a number of years. What was Camarillo like before incorporation in 1965? What changes have you seen since 1965? Or do research online for anything that happened in the past for this area--farming, industry, transportation. Write up a paragraph, or pages, and send it to us--email [pvhs@pvhsonline.org](mailto:pvhs@pvhsonline.org). or snail mail to the Museum. We need your help to archive these stories now for future reference!



## Nominees for Executive Committee 2013-2014

*(These nominations will be presented to the new Board for action on July 1.)*

Frank Roth, *President*

Barbara Wagner, *Corresponding Secretary*

Max Copenhagen, *Vice President*

Hon. Stan Daily, *Parliamentarian*

Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

TBA, *Member at Large*

Bill Todd, *Recording Secretary*

TBA, *Member at Large*

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

Jeanne Adams

Bob Burrow

Max Copenhagen

Liz Daily

Honorable Stanley Daily

Ted Daniel

Ira Grooms

Paul Hawblitzel

Bob Hernandez

David Hibbits

Dr. Renee Whitlock Higgins

John Kitchens

Bill Manzer

Raelene Manzer

Ron McCown

Betty Jo McDonald

Bill Milligan

Albert Misevic

Carol Pinto

Roger Putnam

Franklin Roth

Patricia Roth

Bob Rust

Valerie Tackett

Bill Todd

Joy Todd

Betty Sullivan

Valerie Tackett

Barbara Wagner

*Committee assignments for the coming year have not yet been completed.*

### Answers to the Quiz on Page 4

1. Joel McCrea

2. Shigaru (Shig) Yabu

3. The Buckhorn Saloon

4. Bob Kildee

5. Earl Joseph Drive. This drive leads to the freeway at the new Springville on and off ramps.

6. The Camarillo News. Between 1961 and 1963, it went from being published once a week, to two times a week, then three times a week until, on November 1, 1963, when it became the Camarillo Daily News, published seven days a week, the only morning daily newspaper published as such between Los Angeles and San Francisco at that time.

7. David Smith, who now serves as President/CEO of United Way of Ventura County with headquarters in Camarillo.

8. Oxnard Air Force Base. After its announced closing in late 1968, and after some seven years of discussion about its final disposition, it was parceled out substantially as it is today.

9. The Camarillo State Hospital, which was built and opened in 1936.

10. J.F. Lewis purchased the land. By 1915, he had over 4,000 acres under heavy cultivation and production of walnuts and lima beans, to name but a few crops.