

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

46th DON AND DOÑA BARBECUE



Meet the 2010 Dons and Doñas who are:

From left, seated, Richard Baker, Albert Misevic, Marv Aeder, Mike Andonian and Bill Visser. Standing, from left, Debra Stuebing Thiessen, Olivia Fulkerson, Bob Fulkerson, Janna Visser and Jeff Maulhardt.

Photo courtesy of The Camarillo Acorn and photographer Richard Roll.

Marv Aeder served in the Navy for 30 years and upon retirement settled in Camarillo where he has lived for 37 years. Wanting to serve his community, he became very active in the Camarillo/Somis PV Lions Club. For over thirty years, he has worked on many of their committees. He has also served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and has been an active member of the Camarillo Citizen Patrol. He has volunteered more than 4,000 hours assisting our police department, wherever he is needed.

Mike Andonian, a local CPA, moved to Camarillo with his family in 1965. He was in the first graduating class at Monte Vista Junior High. He graduated from Adolfo Camarillo High School and Cal State University, Sacramento. He has been an active member of Camarillo Rotary Club for 26 years where he served as president and board member. He is past board member of the Ventura County Junior Golf Assn., the Pleasant Valley Education Foundation and the Los Primeros Education Foundation.

Richard Baker has been a California resident since 1947, most of it Ventura County. In retirement from Southern California Edison, he has served on the Camarillo Beautification Committee, with Food Share's

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DONS AND DOÑAS FOR 2010 *(Continued from Page 1)*

Brown Bag Project and delivered items for the Camarillo Health Care District. He has been active with the Camarillo/Somis P.V. Lions Club since 1979, serving in many capacities, including the presidency. As chair of the Sight and Hearing committee, he was instrumental in collecting over 30,000 pairs of glasses to be dispensed on medical missions to third world countries.

Robert Fulkerson's ancestors arrived in this area in 1888. They first opened the Somis Blacksmith Shop in 1892, sold it in 1912 and opened Fulkerson Hardware, which is still an active part of Somis. Bob is a Somis home-grown boy, graduating from Somis School, Adolfo Camarillo High School and San Diego State. Three generations of his family have served on the Somis Union School Board; he has served since 1987. He has also been active with the Camarillo Trade Club, Ventura County Auction Committee and other civic organizations.

Olivia Nevarez Fulkerson's family settled in Camarillo in the early 1960's. She attended Pleasant Valley School and graduated from Adolfo Camarillo High School. She and Bob married in 1984. She has been active in the Somis Union School Parent group, Somis 4-H and Somis Angels Baseball. She and Bob enjoy visiting with their children and four grandchildren.

Jeffrey Maulhardt is a fifth generation descendent of the pioneer Maulhardt and Borchard families. He graduated from Hueneme High and Chico State University. He has taught American History for the Oxnard School District for 27 years with emphasis on our local history. He has written eleven books on local history and is working on his twelfth one. He helped organize the Oxnard Historical Farm Park and Museum, a 19th century farm site that includes the original buildings his ancestors built in 1870.

Albert Misevic has lived in Ventura County since 1947 and in Camarillo since 1972. After a long career in the aerospace industry, he retired and has spent these last years assisting the community in a variety of ways. He chaired a high school speech tourney for two years; created and chaired a 1,000 mile charity tour that collected 1,000 pounds of food for the Ventura County food bank; volunteers with the Camarillo Ranch Foundation, and assists with the annual air show at the Camarillo Airport.

Debra Stuebing Thiessen is a seventh generation Californian. She is a graduate of Adolfo Camarillo High School, Ventura College and San Diego State. Credentialed as a teacher, she taught for Conejo and Moorpark School Districts. She has been a Somis School PFO volunteer and presently serves on the Somis School Foundation Board. She has given many hours as a Padre Serra Religious Education aide and was involved with the Somis 4-H program and Food Share. She is a third generation Doña joining her grandmother, Adele Hernandez Flynn and mother Adele Stuebing Walsh.

Janna Visser moved to Camarillo in 1977 and worked for Mercury Savings and Loan. She received the Woman's Business Award, was very active with the local Toastmistress Club and an active member of the

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From the Desk of the President

Dear Members,

We had a wonderful time at our Dons and Doñas celebration at the Camarillo Ranch House Barn on the 29th of August! We are so blessed to have so many of our residents giving back to our community and we are pleased to be the organization to honor these special people. We feel like we have found a home in the barn! The weather was perfect, the food and drinks were outstanding and we all had a great time. We hope you can join us next year if you did not make it on the 29th.

Our flea markets are being successful and fun days. Please contact Ira Grooms at 386-3584 for an application if you have some items you would like to sell.

Have you been to our botanical garden recently? Betty Jo McDonald and David Hibbits have it looking great in magnificent colors and flowers and we can easily identify the plants with common names and their botanical names with our nice new signs.

As always, we need volunteers to docent and to work in the garden. If you have some spare time and are interested in contributing a few hours here and there, please call me at (805) 320-6553.

As we begin our new year, please take a moment to reflect on the heritage of our lovely valley and ask yourselves if there is anyway you can help us. We need your help in spreading the word about our little museum. It is so important to us and our children.

Best regards,

Paige Jones Hibbits, PhD

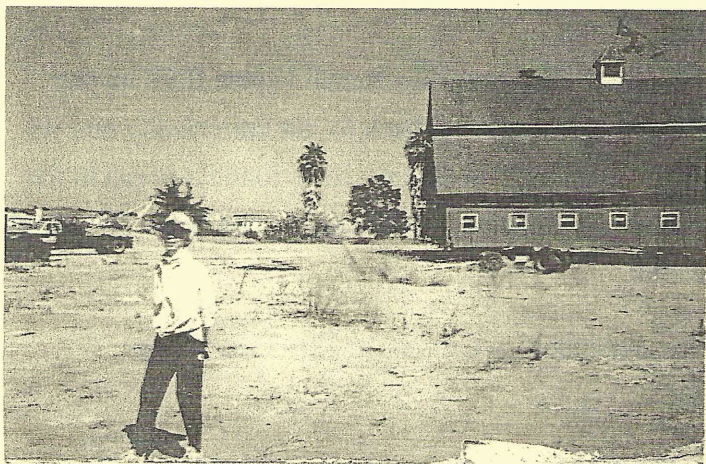
President

2010 DONS AND DOÑAS *(Continued from Page 2)*

Noontime Optimist Club since 1987. She has also served the Camarillo Academic Olympics since the late 1980's. She is a member of the Camarillo Arts Council and a docent at the Carnegie Art Museum in Oxnard.

Bill Visser came to Camarillo in 1977 and worked for the Camarillo Public Works Department for 25 years. He has been a member of the Camarillo Noontime Optimist Club since 1986. During those years, he served on the Board of Directors and headed many committees. He was Optimist of the Year in 2005. He has been an ancillary member of the Camarillo Academics Olympics Committee which means he is always there to lend a helping hand.

The Red Barn



The year is 1999 and the dilapidated mule barn is being moved from its original location to a site closer to the Ranch House.

Maryann Porter (above) was one of the original Ranch Foundation members. She, along with Meliton Ortiz, the former Ranch foreman, had urged the Board to try to save the barn..

The Red Barn, where the 46th Annual Dons and Doñas Barbecue was held, has only been open for community events since 2009.

Originally located to the east of the residence, it was moved in one piece to the northwest side of the ranch house. The restoration work took ten years. Today, it is a large (72 feet by 74 feet) wood-frame building that has been seismically refitted, given a new roof, had restrooms and lighting added to be ready to receive visitors. The cement floor was just a dirt floor as recently as one year ago. The rafters rang with cheers and applause as the new Dons and Doñas were introduced.

The barn was originally built in 1905 and is characteristic of a type of late-nineteenth century cattle or horse barns. Inside, the tall central space was designed to house bales of hay to feed the mules, confined in the stalls along both sides. The mules and hay bales have been replaced by wide open spaces that comfortably accommodated our 165 celebrants and the ten men and women who were being honored.

Outside, the barn's roofline is broken by a clerestory opening that is welcome for ventilation and light. Entry is through a large, hanging door with a double "X" pattern on a single panel with pairs of smaller doors at each corner. Blank, square "windows" enliven the east and west facades. A cupola is on the roof ridge.

The Ranch House complex is well worth visiting if you have not been there before. The House itself is the main draw but the two barns, the mule barn and the one that housed the White Horses at one time, the gardens and the gift shop are not to be missed. The House and the Barn were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

This is the way the Barn looks today.

Much of the information about the history of the barn was in an article by Gary Blum, included in "Barns of Ventura County," edited by Ron Fischer. The book is available in the Ranch House Gift Shop.



Charles Honn Garden

by Betty Jo McDonald

Two of the most beautiful gardening months in Southern California are arriving: October and November. While our eastern and northern gardening friends are raking mountains of leaves, mulching for the winter and cleaning their gardening tools for storage, we are getting started with one of our major planting seasons.

The only thing wrong with these gardening days is the sun sets too early. So get out your old denim shirt, your gloves, forget the hat and get out there and soak up some vitamin D and start planting for radiant spring bloom and harvest.

Planting list:

Flowers: Annuals to plant from seed or from starts: Iceland poppies, pansies, snapdragons, stock, calendula, nemesia and, for shaded areas, the wonderful range of primroses.

Vegetables: October is the time to get winter vegetables into your newly composted beds. Broccoli, brussel sprouts, a dozen kinds of cabbage, cauliflower, many kinds of kale, red, green, curly, straight leaf lettuce for continuous harvest, and the wide variety of oriental greens. Bok choy is one of the best and easiest to grow.

If you are planting natives, November is a great time to plant any of the natives. Great performers in our gardens are *Lavatera assurgenteum*, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, (Toyon); *Rhamnus californica* (coffeeberry); *Clipacus* (Monkey flower), Native Iris, *Heuchera* (Coral bells) and any of the beautiful *archtostaphylos* (Manzanita). Two local native plant nurseries are Matillija Nursery and Nopalita Nursery.

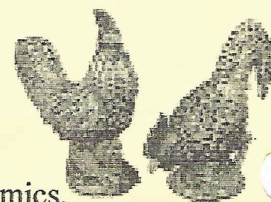
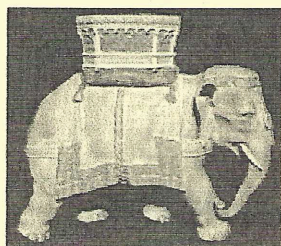
Garden tasks:

Grass: If you have bermuda grass, now is the time to over-seed with cool weather rye seed. It is also the time to de-thatch and aerate your overgrown lawn. Stop the high nitrogen fertilizers which speed grass growth and, when the rain starts in earnest, add iron and minerals to your lawn.

Trees and shrubs: Prune evergreen trees and large shrubs before the winter storms arrive. Thinning of heavy growth will help prevent breakage in heavy wind and rain. If you want to prune your trees yourself, read up on trimming techniques as bad cuts can ruin a tree's appearance forever. Also be sure to observe many safety precautions if you prune for yourself. This work can be dangerous in many ways you don't think of; the smallest falling twig can cause eye damage. To illustrate how hazardous tree work can be, the workers' compensation insurance on tree work is the highest of any of the landscape trades. If you hire someone else to work in your trees, I urge you to hire only licensed, trained and insured companies.

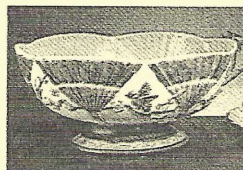
After my dark warning, I will close with: plant, rake leaves, compost and enjoy the beautiful days of autumn in your garden.

ANTIQUE CLUB



"The Colors of Autumn"

During October and November, the display case will feature ceramics, majolica and glass figurines followed in December by a Christmas display.



DINE OUT ALL DAY

We are sponsoring another "Dine Out" event. This time it will be on Monday, November 1, at Marie Callender's Restaurant, 185 Daily Drive. The hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. You can enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner and our building fund will benefit as long as you give your server the enclosed flyer.

FLEA MARKET

Flea Markets will be held on Saturday, October 16 and Saturday, November 20. If you have something to sell and would like a space, call Ira Grooms at 386-3584. If you are a buyer, come between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. and shop among the many booths you will find there. Treasures abound. Save time, save money. There will be no Flea Market in December.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Donations were made in memory of:

Ralph Alamillo by Fred Phipps, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Bartels, Stan and Liz Daily, Tina Sanchez, Val Rains, Ira and Lois Grooms

Juliana Sanchez by Val Rains.

Virginia Tanner by Alice Sherman

Ned Chatfield by Stan and Liz Daily, Fred Phipps.

Pat Walsh by Don and Agatha Miller, Paige and David Hibbits, Stan and Liz Daily, Harry and Nona Papageorge, Fred Phipps, Tina Sanchez, Meadowlark Service League, Val Rains, Ira and Lois Grooms.

John DeBoni by Fred Phipps.

Harold Wilson by Fred Phipps, Stan and Liz Daily.

Peg Gebhardt by Marie Griffin.

Bill Hammaker by Stan and Liz Daily.

Donations were made in honor of these special ladies:

Meliton Ortiz by Laura McAvoy and Sol Choolijian

Lois Grooms on her 80th birthday by Adele Walsh

Donna Jevens by Fred Phipps, Stan and Liz Daily.

Betty Jo McDonald for her tireless efforts in the Charles Honn Garden by Adele Walsh

July 2010 - June 2011

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Adele Walsh

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Tina Sanchez



The Don and Doña Barbecue in the Red Barn