

The Echo

News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

DONS AND DOÑAS 45th CELEBRATION

This tradition began in 1965 with the naming of men and women whose names were synonymous with early greater Camarillo. They were presented as honorary Dons and Doñas (Spanish for gentlemen and ladies). It was a way of paying tribute to the descendents of the pioneering families who contributed much to the enrichment of the area and a nod to Adolfo and Isabella Camarillo, for whom the city was named.

The 1965 celebration was a Fiesta at the Camarillo Ranch home. It was held in honor of the City of Camarillo's first birthday and the 101st birthday of Don Adolfo Camarillo. The other events of the day included a blessing of the animals, a Mexican breakfast hosted by the Optimists, a dedication of the courthouse, a barbeque and the awarding of Charter Citizen certificates to all residents who were living in Camarillo at the time of its incorporation.

That year, those selected as Dons and Doñas were Gene Putnam, our first fire chief; Max Riave, general store owner; Ike Norman, the village blacksmith; Clifford Glenn, rancher; Fred Stein, post master; Marie Fulton, teacher; Rosa Petit, a daughter of Adolfo and Isabella Camarillo; Lena Jones, bookkeeper at the Ranch for 35 years; Eva Hayes and Julia Sotelo, long time residents.

Today's Dons and Doñas have been chosen from area residents who have lived in Camarillo and the surrounding area. Included are men and women whose family and/or personal history is significant in the history of the Pleasant Valley and others who have a record of outstanding community service for 20 years or more. They are:

**Chuck Andrews
Elizabeth Dilibert
David Donlon
Walter Metcalf
Dorothy Pettigrew**

**Susan Andrews
Joseph Dilibert
David Gerry
Beverly Pearson
Charlene Scudder**

**Betty Angle
Marsha Donlon
Ellen (Angel) Lipari
John Pearson
Carol Yung**

This year's festivities will take place at Oak Grove Park and will feature an Anniversary cake. *All previous Dons and Doñas are urged to attend and be recognized. The longest serving honorees will have the privilege of cutting the cake and everyone else will help to blow out the 45 candles.*

As usual, a tasty barbeque dinner with all the trimmings will be served. There will be chicken and tri-tip, beans, salad and garlic bread. The drink table will be pouring wines, beer, soda and bottled water until everyone's thirst is quenched. The \$45 ticket price for adults includes everything plus a small, deductible contribution to the Pleasant Valley Historical Society, a good investment if there ever was one. Children under 13 are \$15. Parking is included; just tell the person at the kiosk that you are attending the barbeque and you will be waved in.

You are cordially invited to attend. It wouldn't be a successful party without you.

SPRINGVILLE CHURCH WINDOW

By Val Rains

Early this year, a letter arrived at our museum from Mr. William (Bill) Allen of Visalia, California, requesting information regarding the Springville Church. Mr. and Mrs. Allen's home contained a large church window that, as it was told to them, had been from the Springville Church. An expert in church windows from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, had verified that it came from the late 1800's. Mr Allen is a historian and had written an article about the present-day Springville, California. It is a small village of approximately 1800 residents some fifty miles southeast of Fresno. It is situated in the foothills on the way to Sequoia National Park. Originally, it had been called Daunt before changing its name in 1911. In 1905, our Springville community, along with the Post Office by that name ceased to exist. According to Mr. Allen, when the name and Post Office became available, Daunt residents assumed them both.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen visited our museum on February 28th, and were given a tour not only of the museum, but to Wood Road where the original church and cemetery were located. They also visited the Pleasant Valley Bible Church to examine the bell that is located in the front patio. It came from the Springville Church. We also studied some of their church windows which may be of the same vintage as the Springville Church.

In preparation for their visit, I did research on the former community of Springville which was located where the outlet center and airport are today. It was during that research that I learned there were two cemeteries in our area, one belonging to the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church (presently, Dizdar Park) and one located beside the Springville Church. Many of the remains from both cemeteries were transferred to Ivy Lawn and are listed in their register.



The Allens were most interested in viewing the carved replica of the church that is on display in our museum (see below). It was carved from wood saved by Mrs. Sadie Newell when the church was demolished. E.W. Daily made the replica. To the left is Mrs. Allen, standing by the church window that graces their home. When they entertain, they introduce their window by placing a collection plate nearby for donations.



From the Desk of the President

We have had another successful year and are now headed into the 2009-2010 fiscal year which started July 1st.

The officers for this new year are remaining the same as last year. They are:

President	Liz Daily
Vice President	Ira Grooms
Recording Secretary	Adele Walsh
Corresponding Secretary	Val Rains
Parliamentarian	Hon. Stan Daily

We are fortunate to have two new individuals joining our hard working board this year, Jan and Dale Ackerman. They are welcome additions.

This past year, 2008-2009, was a very productive one. Our volunteer Sandy Needer has been hard at work cataloguing our books and transferring all of the information into our computer data banks. We currently have over 600 books on the shelves.

Recently we received a donation of a large number of pictures from the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, which brings our picture collection to over 3,000 prints. This latest addition needs to be sorted and the individuals in them identified. If you would care to assist in this task, please call me (Liz Daily) at (805) 482-1036. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Charmaine Beaumont and I have been accessioning artifacts, cataloguing and noting their location for easy access. All items in the Museum building should be finished this summer. We will then begin doing the same thing to the items stored in the Museum's large container. We currently have 1000 items accessioned.

Living History Day, held in May, was a success, with many individuals participating, both those attending and those assisting with the crafts and demonstrations. We added two new crafts this year, needle point and clothespin dolls. I would like to offer a special thanks to all those board members, docents, and others who helped to make this event special for the children of our community.

The garden continues to be a great attraction. We have done extensive trimming these last few months and have added 50 new native plants to our collection.

Our next big event this year will be the Don and Doña Barbeque to be held on Sunday, August 23rd at Oak Grove Park in Camarillo. The Board of Directors and I hope that you will plan to join us for this festive occasion to pay tribute to our honored Dons and Doñas.

The Pleasant Valley Museum and the Camarillo Library are trying to complete their collection of Ventura County Historical Society Quarterlies and publications. If you have any you would be willing to donate, please drop them off at the Museum on Thurs. between 9 - 11 a.m., Sat. or Sun. between 12 - 4 p.m.. They can also be taken to the Friends of the Library Book Store.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

Look for the answers on Page 7

- 1.. During World War II, what building was a plane spotting station in Camarillo?
2. What did the car stickers A, B, C stand for during World War II?
3. What did children use tar for during World War II?
4. When was the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce incorporated?
5. Where was New Jerusalem?
6. Who was the first Lima Bean Queen of Camarillo?
7. Who started the first Camarillo Beautiful?
8. Who was elected to the first City Council?
9. Who was appointed to the first Planning Commission?

What You Missed If You Didn't Come To the Annual Meeting

"Teddy Roosevelt" told us that his roommate in college was one of the Oxnard brothers who gave their name to our neighboring city.



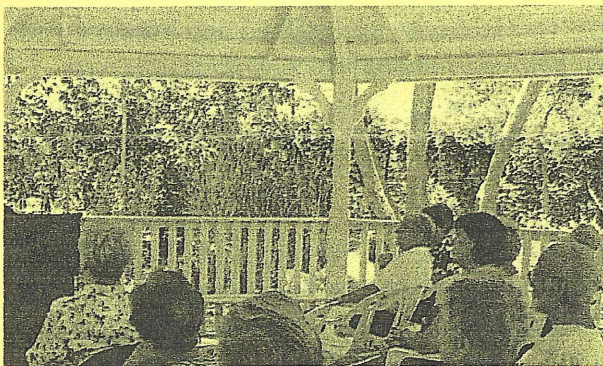
Honored docents (l. to r.) were:
Adele Walsh, Pat Roth, Liz Daily,
Shirley Randall, Dave Hibbits, Bob
Rust, Val Rains, Ira Grooms, Bill and
Shirley Seaver.

Charles Honn Botanical Garden

Betty Jo McDonald, Garden Coordinator

The Botanic Garden was recently the site of three events. Our annual Living History Day, under the expert guidance of Liz Daily, was a great success and, as always, introduced families to the Historical Society and to the History of the region. During June, we had a beautiful day time wedding--thanks to the volunteers who worked to make it possible. We were also the site of an Eagle Scout project. The young men researched, constructed and installed "Bat Boxes" which we hope will become the home of voracious insect eating bats. The project was efficiently and professionally done. We hope to offer protection to local bats whose sleeping places are rapidly disappearing.

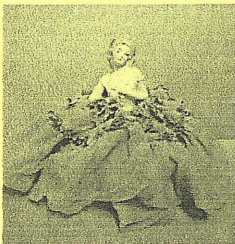
The restoration of the understory of the Botanic garden is underway. Many new native plants have been planted and the rejuvenation of the irrigation system (which celebrates its 21st birthday this year) is almost complete. Again, thank you goes out to Bill Milligan for his generous donation to the repair of the irrigation system.



The flower border is looking beautiful, so encourage your friends to schedule their events in the garden and in the gazabo. The annual meeting in June took place there.

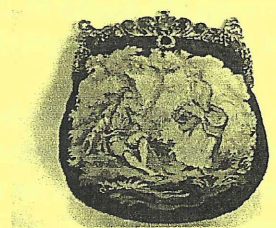
The gazabo is in a jewel-like setting yet participants are sheltered from the sun. If you are interested in booking it for an event, call Val Rains at 484-3777 for available dates and prices.

ANTIQUE CLUB DISPLAY



In the case now -

Beautiful antique half-dolls, trapestry purses, demitasse cups and saucers, and china birds are on display, courtesy of members of the Guild who are sharing their collections with us.



MEMORIALS

Frank Staben

Nancy Worthington

HISTORIC STREET NAMES

ADOLFO ROAD Named for Adolfo Camarillo

by Naomi Fischer

Don Adolfo Camarillo was born in San Buenaventura, CA, on October 28, 1864. When his father passed away in 1880, Adolfo, age 16, his brother Juan, and their Mother Martina, jointly inherited Calleguas Rancho. Their sisters received other properties. Adolfo assumed operation responsibility for the approximately 10,000-acre Rancho. At age 21, he graduated from International Business College (Woodbury) and assumed full management. Making "great strides in land cultivation" the Rancho became one of the most valuable in Ventura County. During his lifetime, Calleguas Rancho was one of the largest estates and also one of the oldest, under continuous management and cultivation since the Spanish land grants.

When their Mother passed away, Juan had St. Mary Magdalen Church on Ventura Blvd. built as a monument to her. He became a world traveler, had an audience with the Pope, and left the running of the Rancho to Adolfo. The Rancho was a working farm with crops in barley, corn, alfalfa and grain. Every acre was utilized. Adolfo, along with Joseph Lewis became a pioneer in the raising of lima beans. Eventually they had over 3,000 acres planted in beans with another 2,000 acres of orchards, chiefly walnuts and citrus. Don Adolfo was "considered a leader in agricultural progress in Ventura County and his ranch ranked with the largest and best equipped in California." The dairy was operated by electricity and milked one hundred and fifty high grade cows. Adolfo bred pigs and was a breeder of his beloved famous white Arabian-Morgan horses. Known as one of the foremost stockmen in Southern California, he grew all the livestock feed on the Rancho. In a personal diary, Adolfo noted the land had many living springs, which gave him the idea to pipe this water underground to turn the Rancho into fertile soil.

In 1888 Adolfo married Isabella Menchaca of Ventura. They had seven children, but only five: Rosa, Ave, Isabel, Frank and Carmen, grew to adulthood. Don Adolfo loved fiestas, rodeos and barbecues, which were often held at the Rancho. He and his family regularly participated in parades on his pure white horses, including the annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA. They "rode in these parades attired in the costumes of the Dons and Senoritas of early California, saddles and accessories being mounted with exquisite silver". He was an active member of the Rancheros Visitadores, who every spring made a cross-country trek on horseback, visiting the ranches of the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County. Following the deaths in 1936 of his wife, Isabella, and his brother Juan, Adolfo curtailed his involvement in all of these colorful activities. He continued to donate both time and money to his community.

Gov. Rolph appointed him a director of the State Agricultural Board in charge of the California State Fair. He was one of three commissioners for the "Century of Progress" International Exposition in Chicago, IL. He served eight years on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors; was a member of the Knights of Columbus of Oxnard; a Grand Knight of the Oxnard Council; President of the Columbian Club; a member of BPOE of Santa Barbara; Native Sons of the Golden West; Vice President of the First National Bank of Ventura; V. P. of the Ojai State Bank of Nordhoff; a Director in the Bank of A. Levy, Inc. of Oxnard; a board member of the Oxnard branch Bank of America; and a director of the Security Bank, Oxnard. Don Adolfo died of pneumonia December 10, 1958 and is interred in the family crypt beneath St. Mary Magdalen Church in Camarillo, alongside his parents, his wife, sisters and brothers.

June 2009 - July 2010

Excutive Committee and Board of Directors

Liz Daily, *President*

Ira Grooms, *Vice President*

Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

Adele Walsh, *Recording Secretary*

Val Rains, *Corresponding Secretary*

Honorable Stan Daily, *Parliamentarian*

David Hibbits, *Executive Committee Member At Large*

Carol Pinto, *Executive Committee Member at Large*

Directors:

Dale Ackerman

Liz Daily

Vicky Daniel

Ira Grooms

Paige Jones Hibbits

Bill Manzer

Bill Milligan

Carol Pinto

Bob Rust

Janet Ackerman

Stan Daily

Bill Doctorman

Bob Hernandez

John Kitchens

Raelene Manzer

Betty Jo McDonald

Roger Putnam

Tina Sanchez

Adele Walsh

Jane Brewster

Ted Daniel

Barbara Fulkerson

David Hibbits

Suzanne Makuch

Ron McCown

Raquel Latham

Val Rains

Betty Sullivan

Answers to the Trivia Quiz

1. The top of the Pope's home, now the Church of the Nazarene, on Las Posas Road was the plane spotting station.
2. "A" meant you were eligible to buy 4 gallons of gas per week, "B" eight gallons, "C" was unlimited.
3. Children used tar as chewing gum during the war years.
4. The Chamber was incorporated in 1940.
5. New Jerusalem is where El Rio is now.
6. Jean Daily Underwood was the first Lima Bean Queen. She later served on the Somis School Board, Oxnard High School Board and the Camarillo Health District Board.
7. Edith "Tweedy" Rouse and Helen Ahern started Camarillo Beautiful.
8. Earl Joseph (Mayor), Stan Daily (Vice Mayor), Ned Chatfield, Guy Turner and Edith "Tweedy" Rouse were the first Council members.
9. John Bishop, Jim Quam, John Bailey, Stanlee Rank and Helen Ahern were the first Planning Commission members.

How many did you guess right?