

# The Echo

## News from the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

2008

### CAMARILLO HONORS NEW DONS AND DOÑAS

A great time was had by all as many of our neighbors and friends gathered to welcome the 21 new Dons and Doñas on Sunday, August 24, at Camarillo's Oak Grove Park. The festivities began with one of our new Doñas, Dorothy Berzman, and her quartet of Sweet Adelines, singing several familiar songs. Then our honored guests were introduced and their bios read by Paige Hibbits, Val Rains and Adele Walsh. For those of you who missed the event, we are presenting very, *very* short versions of the information read by our emcees, including *only* the honorees' major community service:



Photo courtesy The Acorn – Camarillo. Wendy Pierro, Photographer

Pictured from right to left, front row: Pat Anderson, Sally Gillespie, Judy Goulet, Dorothy Berzman, Deena Gerry, Charmaine Beaumont, Shirley FitzGerald, Patricia Scholle. Back row: John Anderson, Jerry Gillespie, Art Goulet, Will Gerry, Mike Morgan, Carol Pinto, Larry Davis.

**PAT ANDERSON** - Pat has been a Cub Scout leader, a classroom assistant in reading and math, an after school tutor, a page at the Camarillo Library. She is assistant manager of the Friends of the Camarillo Library Bookstore and a member of the FOCL Board.

**JOHN ANDERSON** - John has been a Search and Rescue Pilot for the Civil Air Patrol and a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 723, Air Show staff. He serves on the FOCL board and is currently Membership Chair.

**CHARMAINE BEAUMONT** - Charmaine is a docent at the Pleasant Valley Historical Society Museum and is on the cleaning committee, helps with Living History Day, sorts museum collections and assists at weddings in the gazebo and garden. She is also active with the Friends of the Camarillo Library.

**DOROTHY BERZMAN** - Dorothy was a founding member of AAUW, Camarillo Chapter and an actress in many productions with the Camarillo Community Theater. She is an office volunteer at FOODShare and sings with the Channelaires Chorus.

**LARRY DAVIS** - Larry served Camarillo as Assistant City Manager for many years. He helped to plan and guide the growth of our city, preserving our agricultural heritage while permitting limited growth. He has been president of the Optimist Club, and is serving on the Chamber of Commerce as Chair of Tourism.

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## 2008 DONS AND DONAS, Continued from first page

**SHIRLEY FITZGERALD** - Shirley's volunteer activities through the years have included National Charity League and Children's Home Society, work with Special Ed students, and she helped establish the cheerleading program for the Camarillo Roadrunners. She is a long time supporter of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society and Museum.

**DEENA GERRY** - Deena married into the Gerry family, pioneering ranchers in the Santa Rosa Valley, and is proud to be a farm wife. She has been a 60 year member of the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, teaching Sunday School and serving on many committees.

**WILL GERRY** - Will, her son, is a fourth generation Ventura County farmer. He has served on the Board of Directors of Ventura Pacific, the lemon packinghouse, for over 25 years and is active in the Ventura County Citrus Exchange, the U.S. Citrus Science Council and Sunkist, Inc. He has recently branched out to plant fourteen varieties of blueberries.

**SALLY GILLESPIE** - Sally has taught Sunday School for 25 years at St. Columba's Church where she made lunches for the children attending their school. On Tuesdays, she bakes cookies for the volunteers at Habitat for Humanity. She is an expert knitter and has knitted hundreds of Christmas stockings that have been sent as far away as Germany, Egypt and South Africa.

**JERRY GILLESPIE** - Jerry has been a very active member of St. Columba's Church, singing in their choir for almost 50 years, and on their governing board for 12 years. Sally and he have been in charge of food preparations for the annual pit barbeque for the past 40 years. He also tutors and builds homes for Habitat for Humanity.

**JUDY GOULET** - Judy has served on the Board of Directors in the St. John's Pleasant Valley Auxiliary, Camarillo Newcomers Club and the Meadowlark Service League and as president of each organization.

**ART GOULET** - Art has taken an active role in the Ventura County Retirement System, both locally and at the state level. He is on the Board of the Camarillo Ranch Foundation.

**MARY LITTLE** - Mary has been active in the Newcomers Club, Camarillo Hospice, Meadowlark Service League, Camarillo Republican Federation, and has recently joined the New West Symphony Board. During her tenure with Hospice, they became the sole sponsor of the Saturday Camarillo's Farmers Market.

**BILL LITTLE** - As City Manager, Bill was able to obtain the Camarillo Ranch property for the city and now, in retirement, he serves on the Ranch Board. He is also active with the Camarillo Boys and Girls Club, the New West Symphony Board, Friends of the Camarillo Library and the Camarillo Arts Council.

**DRS. TERRI LISAGOR** - Terri is a professor of Nutrition at CSUN and has won numerous awards for excellence in teaching. She was a Global Humanitarian volunteer for Katrina victims and is coordinator for nutrition education for Catchee Indian children in Guatemala.

**DR. MARK LISAGOR** - Mark has been Man of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, has won the Thomas Jefferson Award, the Joel McCrea Award, the Rotary Club Living Treasure Award and more. He is an international Dental volunteer with more than 20 missions abroad.

**CAROLYN MENNE** - Carolyn is a past Board member of the Museum of Ventura County, and presently serves on their Fine Arts and Centennial Circles committees. She is a member of Las Patronas Auxiliary of the Assistance League and a member of the Mary Health of the Sick Capital Campaign.

**JOHN MENNE** - John has been active with the Pleasant Valley Vegetable Co-op, the Ventura County Lima Bean Assn., Ventura Pacific Co, Crestview Mutual Water Co., Villanova Preparatory School and, with Carolyn, is active with the Mary Health of the Sick Capital Campaign.

**MIKE MORGAN** - A 28 year member of the Camarillo City Council, Mike was a charter citizen of Camarillo when the city incorporated in 1964. He was one of the founders of the Arts Council and is currently involved with several local charitable organizations including the Camarillo Arts Council, American Legion, Knights of Columbus and American Cancer Society.

**CAROL PINTO** - Carol was also a Charter citizen of Camarillo. She has volunteered in many diverse areas including various boards, scholarship committees and academic events. She also assists Red Cross Volunteer Disaster responses.



## From The Desk Of The President...

Dear PVHS Members,

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society starts its new year on July 1st. The officers for 2008-2009 are:

President - Liz Daily

Vice-President - Ira Grooms

Recording Secretary - Adele Walsh

Corresponding Secretary - Val Rains

Treasurer - Bob Rust

Parliamentarian - Stan Daily

One of our Board members, Barbara Stirzel, passed away in July. We are going to miss her.

On a happier note we added three new Board members, one Don and two Donas. They are Ted and Vicky Daniel and Nadine Naysmith. Nadine is a Chamber of Commerce Pillar of the Community.

We are looking forward to a great year. I hope to see you at our Harvest Festival, Oct. 18, Living History Day in May and the Annual meeting in June.

Liz Daily, President

### **Opportunities for History Buffs:**

We are looking for people who would be interested in helping with our collections by sorting through old papers for interesting articles (we have copies of The Daily News from 1929), or helping with our files. If this is you and you have free time on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday or any Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m., we would love to have you join us. Call Liz Daily at 482-1036 for more information.

### **Did you know the Little League Bronco World Series was held in Camarillo in 1971?**

Last month Stan Daily, who was Mayor at the time, donated a bat that had been given to him commemorating the Champions. The Chamber of Commerce manager put together the arrangements for the event. It was held at a baseball field that had been part of the Oxnard Air Force Base, now Ventura County Airport in Camarillo. The bat has the names of all the team members on the winning team.

### **Docents and Substitutes Wanted:**

Could you help out 4 hours on a weekend? Sometimes our regularly scheduled Docents find they have a conflict with their other commitments. Usually they can trade their day with another Docent but, once in a while, we need a substitute. If you would be interested in learning how to become a Docent, please call Liz Daily at 482-1036.



## ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Come celebrate Camarillo History Month with us. The Pleasant Valley Historical Society will be hosting their 5th Annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 18, 2008. The event will be in the historical Thiessen Family Barn at 4588 Donlon Road in Somis, from 4 PM – 8 PM. The celebration will include barbequed extra choice beef and chicken grilled to your taste plus a choice of great side dishes and drinks.

Entertainment will include music and dancing and the crowning of the Harvest Festival King and Queen. This honor goes to the outstanding museum supporters of the year. Last year, our honorees were Bill Doctorman and Tina Sanchez. In the years prior, they were Paige and David Hibbits, Ira Grooms and Adele Walsh, and Stan and Liz Daily. Who will be the King and Queen this year?

A Silent Auction will add to the proceeds that go toward the Society museum and botanical garden maintenance and expansion. Make your reservations by October 11 by calling the museum (805) 482-3660 or (805) 482-2580. Cost is \$45 plus a no-host bar. Come play in the barn with us! We have so much fun!

## IN MEMORIUM

### Marjorie Maulhardt

Pat Wise  
David Hibbits

### Phyllis Tamborello

West and Catherine  
Rivers

### Barbara Stirzel

Helen Clausing  
Stan and Liz Daily  
Denka Nelson  
Pat Wise  
Phil Carey

### Mr. Cole Lipking

Pat and Adele Walsh

### Arlene Silveira

West and Catherine  
Rivers



## Notes and Conversation

### Charles Honn Botanical Garden

Thanks to the City of Camarillo Tree Crew! On August 27, Bob Pitts came with a crew of 3 men to work on the trees in the garden. They spent the day working with chain saws, pole trimmers and a chipper and it made a tremendous difference in the amount of light which reaches the lower levels of the garden. Marie Jascina and Betty Jo McDonald were there, checking the irrigation system and trimming the smaller shrubs while collaborating with the tree crew. The City Crew did a beautiful and artistic job of trimming and shaping. Our thanks to Kevin Jordensborg of the City of Camarillo and to PVHS's Bob Rust for arranging this very productive day.

The garden has always had an important role in the Historical Society's Mission. As Camarillo becomes more and more urban, the garden gains in its importance. It is our responsibility to keep this small garden jewel at its best. It is time to renovate the irrigation system, to add new understory plants, to paint the tool shed, repair the bridge and trim the hedge.

The garden needs helpers for painting, installing the donated bricks as a patio for the gazebo to expand seating for events, trimming the shrubs and the roses, dead-heading flowers, refurbishing the teak bench, and other small tasks. We need the following items donated: paint, two hoses, hose reel, flowers or roses for the grass border. We welcome youth groups who need a project. Call Betty Jo McDonald at 482-5778 to help or to donate.

### Streets of Camarillo:

Do you ever wonder how a city's streets get their names? Camarillo's rich history is told in its street names. Let's start with one of our main roads, Carmen Drive. This street was named after Carmen Camarillo Jones, Adolfo Camarillo's youngest daughter. She lived on the Camarillo Ranch for most of her life. As a child, she lived in the Camarillo house. Later a house just past the side garden was built for her.

On the west side of town where Las Posas curves south, if you go straight ahead instead of following Las Posas, you are on Earl Joseph Drive. Earl owned a shoe store in old town Camarillo. The store was later purchased and moved to Las Posas Plaza but the name remained the same. Earl was elected to the first City Council in 1964 and, because he received the most votes, the council elected him Mayor. He served on the council for eight years and served as Mayor for the first six years.

In one of our earlier Newsletters, we found that Wood Rd. was named for a local man. Many of the streets are named for the early families who owned land along the road. Also we have many streets with Spanish names. What do they mean? If you would be interested in researching road names for the Newsletter, call Liz Daily at 482-1036

### Antique Club Display:

Our museum has given a cubicle to the Antique Club of Camarillo in which to do a periodic revolving display. The ladies of the Camarillo Antique club have filled a museum case, called "I do, I do", with wedding memorabilia of the past. Included in the case are wedding dresses and shoes, marriage licenses and announcements, photographs, jewelry, fans, purses and related items. All these things are precious reminders of past generations of the club members. We hope you will all stop in to enjoy this case, which will be on display through September.



## Camarillo Historical Trivia?

Contributed by Val Rains

**WARNING! If you don't want to see the answers, cover the bottom half of this trivia page without looking!**

1. What was the name of the first Ventura County newspaper begun in 1871?
2. What newspaper followed in 1875?
3. Both of these newspapers were identified as either favoring the Democrats or favoring the Republicans. Can you match them with a political party?
4. How much do you think a Coast Line Stage Coach trip to San Francisco would cost you leaving Ventura in 1872?
5. Where was the first pineapple raised in California?
6. Who was the first teacher of Pleasant Valley School students in 1868 who later became the first president of the Ventura Education Association in 1871, and later the Ventura County Supt. of Schools?
7. Did you know that in the very first elections held to appoint the Ventura County Officers that there were two slates: Democratic and Republican?
8. The Ventura Signal on September 9, 1871 printed average monthly teachers' salary that the Journal of Education, located in Chicago, Ill., published. Listing male and female salaries in separate categories for Indiana, Massachusetts, Nevada and California, can you guess which state paid the highest monthly salaries?
9. An election notice on May 25, 1874, published in the Ventura Signal, announced that "There would be an election held at the Pleasant Valley School House on Saturday, the 27<sup>th</sup> Day of June next at which will be submitted to the voters of Pleasant Valley School District the question of a tax for the purpose of building a public school house." Can you guess how much that tax would be to build the second school house for the District?

### Answers

1. The Ventura Signal
2. The Ventura Daily Free Press
3. The Ventura Signal was Democrat and The Ventura Daily Free Press was Republican
4. \$18
5. In 1871, it was raised in the garden of St. Vincent's College in Los Angeles
6. D. D. DeNure
7. Although non-partisan today, in 1873, it seems they were listed by party affiliation.
8. Nevada: Male - \$118.74 and Female - \$62.16. Wonder why Nevada?
9. \$1,500



**June 2008 – July 2009**

**Executive Committee and Board of Directors:**

Liz Daily, *President*  
Ira Grooms, *Vice President*  
Bob Rust, *Treasurer*  
Adele Walsh, *Recording Secretary*

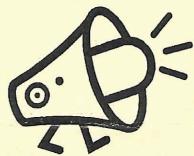
Val Rains, *Corresponding Secretary*  
Honorable Stanley Daily, *Parliamentarian*  
David Hibbits, *Executive Committee Member At Large*  
Carol Pinto, *Executive Committee Member At Large*

**Directors:**

Jane Brewster  
Liz Daily  
Vicky Daniel  
Ira Grooms  
Paige Jones Hibbits  
Eloise Gerry Mansfield  
Ron McCown  
Nadine Naysmith  
Roger Putnam  
Tina Sanchez

Kristi Colell  
Honorable Stanley Daily  
Bill Doctorman  
Bob Hernandez  
John Kitchens  
Bill Manzer  
Bill Milligan  
Raquel Latham  
Val Rains  
Betty Sullivan

Eric Daily  
Ted Daniel  
Barbara Fulkerson  
David Hibbits  
Suzanne Makuch  
Raelene Manzer  
Betty Jo McDonald  
Carol Pinto  
Bob Rust  
Adelle Walsh



**Society Announcements**

**October 18, 2008**

**Harvest Festival, 4 – 8 p.m.**

At the Thiessen Family Barn, 4588 Donlon Rd., Somis

**May 3, 2009**

**Living History Day**

To be held at the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum

**June 7, 2009**

**Annual Meeting, 1 – 3 p.m.**

Te be held at the Pleasant Valley Historical Society

E-mail address: [pvhs@pvhsonline.org](mailto:pvhs@pvhsonline.org)

Web site address: [pvhsonline.org](http://pvhsonline.org)