



The Echo

The PVHS Museum Expansion Project: Phase 1 Underway



The first layer of topsoil and asphalt are cleared to begin soil compaction for the expansion building's concrete pad.

As you may see from the photos, we are in “construction.” Four years of our “paper” efforts to expand the museum have been completed and we are building. Phase I is digging a hole, filling it and compacting it, creating the base for the concrete slab that will be poured. The pad will include the electrical and plumbing base for the addition to the water company building, our previous museum. All this will take about 4 months. We have all the funds in place for this phase.

Phase II is the retro-fitting of the original building. The City had the asbestos cleaned from inside of the building. Our volunteers have removed the ceiling tiles and all the wood that framed the bathrooms and office. This saves us some money. Everything is in place for phase II and we need your help for the funds to cover this phase.

We have been soliciting the funds that are needed to construct phase II. We have board members who have stepped up with additional giving and we have established payment plans. We need your help. If you can, and or know of someone who would, help with the costs of the retrofit, please let us know.

The PVHS Board voted to establish an Advisory Council to help with our community outreach. We are looking for people who would offer advice and resources to expand our community connection. Gerry Olsen has retired from the PVHS Board and has volunteered to be a member. If you think this is a place for you to help PVHS please contact Joy...805-482-0179.

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The original building preparation continues with removal of the tile ceiling and the obsolete interior walls.

Expansion Fundraising

After months and years of envisioning and preparing plans, we are now beginning the construction of our expansion project. We will have an updated facility and space to tell the story of the Pleasant Valley area. Many thanks to those who have helped to get us to this point! We are shifting from planning to a greater fundraising effort. Phase I is paid for, now. It is critical that we generate the funding for subsequent phases of our project. Your help is needed as we continue to move forward. Your financial help is an important part of getting to our goal. Your past donations are greatly appreciated but we need additional funding. Donations can be made in a total amount or over a period of time. Perhaps you would add additional giving to your yearly membership donation. You might consider “legacy Giving” as part of estate planning.

Like an extended family, you may know people or institutions that support non-profits and or are interested in our local area and the history and teaching our museum provides to the community. We have resources prepared to facilitate presentations to groups or individuals. You will be hearing more about this aspect of our “Capital Campaign.”

Being a part of history is our time on Earth. Leaving the legacy of that history is the purpose of our museum.

Calendar Year 2023 Membership

You can be a “Charter Supporting Member” for the new building year! New, or renewing members will be proud that their membership dues support the operations of the museum during our construction project. As we do not have any paid staff, our volunteers continue to work using expensive archival preservation and restoration materials, as well as for the growing accumulation of documentation cards for the 25-drawer vintage card catalog. Funds are also used for promotion and preservation in the Community.

Please indicate your level of membership on the enclosed 2023 membership envelope and return it soon.

The Old Bells of the New Year



This 141-year-old bell, weighing over 1,400 pounds has been in three locations since it was cast in Los Angeles in 1881. The cast-iron bell was purchased for \$200 and hung in the steeple of Springville's *Church of the Little Flock*. The bell remained there until 1917 when the *Pleasant Valley Baptist Church* paid just \$23.65 to have it moved to its location at the corner of Arneill Road/ Ventura Blvd. The current building at this site was built in 1930, and housed the bell in its steeple for the next fifty-one years. Members recall that Joe Gerry faithfully rang the bell for over fifty years! We are not certain if the bell was ever hoisted to the steeple of the 1891 church building at the same location.

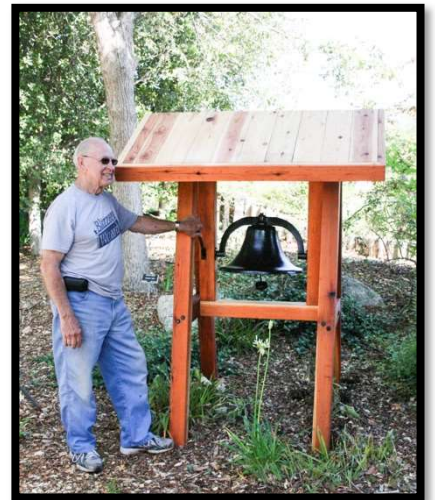
When the congregation—now known as *Pleasant Valley Bible Church*--built a new sanctuary at Ponderosa/Lantana in 1981, the bell was also moved, but needed some restoration before it could be hung. Bill Nichols, Ray Bright and Richard Gerry started the restoration project going. Lee Miller asked Ken Stine, owner of B & C Welding in Port Hueneme for help, who offered the company's services to clean pockets of rust and dirt, and then coat it with a metal preservative. They also constructed and erected, using a crane, the 40'+ modern, free-standing structure to display the bell, which was dedicated in 1989. The bell is still rung.



At one hundred years old, this *Pleasant Valley School* bell has also been in three locations. Originally, it was in the bell tower of the PV School building that was built in 1922 at the current location of *Channel Islands Art Studios* on Ventura Blvd. The tower was over the central entrance and was rung daily to start the school day. In 1949, this building was replaced to be able to update earthquake requirements. As it was demolished,

an interested person salvaged it and brought it to the *Fundamental Baptist Church* on Aster Street in Satcoy where it hung in the belfry. After many years, the bell was silenced, but continued to reside in the belfry.

In 2013, a member of the church contacted PVHS and said that it belonged "home" in Camarillo, if we would come get the 85-pound cast-iron bell from the attic. Presently hanging at the entrance to the PVHS Botanical Garden, Frank Roth constructed the hefty structure, shown here, to support it. Visitors still ring it.



New PVHS Logo

You may have noticed that we have introduced a new logo in recent *Echoes*, and on our stationery. Thank you to Kelsea Bergh for submitting it—she gave us multiple choices. It combines the figures from the old logo (which was designed by James FitzGerald in 1987) into colorful hexagons. Kelsea is the daughter of Eric Bergh who has been producing our fundraising promotional videos and the presentation video for prospective donors to our building project.



PV MERCANTILE

The latest addition to the east side of the garden is a structure that we call, “PV MERCANTILE.” It has windows that enable the visitor to look in at five shelves filled with vintage items that were offered for sale in earlier times including historic information.

There is a box of *White King Soap*, a Los Angeles Co. that made detergent soap for washing clothes. The company employed over 500 people. As a regional soap company, it could not compete with the huge manufacturers and it closed in 1981. People who grew up in Southern California remember its distinctive box. There are unique household items such as the 1943 *Rocket Nut Cracker* by Reed making for “larger and cleaner nut meats.” For the seamstress, there is the *Sally Stanley Smocking Pleater*, and much more!



The 7' X 5' building features a small covered boardwalk that allows the visitor a closer look into the store. With the "PV Mercantile," "Buggy Barn," "Smithy" and a vista of the beautiful Garden Mural painted by Diane Ellias, this completes the east garden area display.



Since 2018, our volunteers have built 11 structures – 5 display, adding about 400 sq², and 6 for storage. The garden also offers an array of Chumash cooking stones, a 1952 Allis-Chalmers row crop tractor used in the Oxnard Plain, hand plows and other artifacts.

PVHS Board Officers 2022-2023

Joy Todd, *President*

Greg Farrin, *Vice President* Bob Rust, *Treasurer*

Debbie Thiessen, *Recording Secretary*

MEMORIALS

Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer donated in memory of:

Wayne Culberson, Nancy Howald, Shirley Kindig, Craig Robinson, Katie Waunch, James Weir

Donations in memory of **Vicky Daniel** from:

*Greg & Karin Farrin, Bob & Olivia Fulkerson, Adele Steubing Walsh, Debra Thiessen,
Bill & Joy Todd, Robin Yamamoto*

Donations in memory of **Terry DeWolfe** from:

Gail DeWolfe, Jane Douglas, Betty Jo McDonald, Carolyn Pelouze, Debra Thiessen

Donation in memory of **Raelene Manzer** from:

*Noella Belvedere, Gail Brockett, Kevin & April Donohue, Bob & Olivia Fulkerson, Mary Goldberg,
Robert & Harriet Hiji, Hillary & Stella Ling, Curt & Beverly Luft, Bill Manzer, Betty Jo McDonald,
Mary Ann Myers, Jeri Mykleby, Gerry & Joan Olsen, Jane Pidduck, Vinette Slatten, Mark Stern,
Adele Steubing Walsh, Debbie Thiessen, Barbara Wagner*

Donation in memory of **Dewey & Hazel Culbert** from: *Rod & Doris Harvey*

Donation in memory of **Charles and Ruth Honn** from: *Richard Honn*

Donation in memory of **Doris Jean & John Kilroy** from: *Rod & Doris Harvey*

Donation in memory of **Mrs. Gloria Miele** from: *Joy & Bill Todd*

Donation in memory of **Sam Sunida** from: *Betty Jo McDonald*

Donation in memory of **Mary Sisson Wilson** from: *Joy & Bill Todd*

TRIBUTES

*Tribute from Betty Jo McDonald to: In honor of **Liz Daily***

*Tribute from Hilary & Stella Ling to: In honor of **Doña Helen Faul***

*Tribute from Hilary & Stella Ling to: In honor of **Don Howald***

*Tribute from Betty Jo McDonald to: In honor of **Joy & Bill Todd***

*Tribute from Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer to: In honor of **Joy Todd** for all she does for PVHS*

BUILDING and other DONATIONS

Ray Abbott

Camarillo Ranch Foundation

Megan Jennett Curtis

Gail DeWolfe

Neal Dixon

Helen & David Faul

Janice Garner

Doris & Rod Harvey

John Krotcher

Richard & Madeline Lee

Bill Mason

Carolyn Menne

Native Sons of The Golden West

Rachel Resnik-Miles

Paul Rockenstein

Franklin & Pat Roth

Scott Family Foundation

Gwen & Jeffrey Speakes

Carol Spracklen

Pat Sproat

Katherine Taylor

R.M.K. Weed-Girls

‘Let's Pick Up' BBQ & Dine-Out/Take-Out Events:

| January 10 th | February 7 th | March 7 th |
|---|---|---|
| <p>PVHS invites you to Let's Dine Out at</p>  <p>1620 Ventura Boulevard 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Eat In or Take Out Tuesday, January 10th, 2023 Present this coupon to server</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">SHARKY'S WOODFIRED MEXICAN GRILL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOIN US FOR A <i>Fin-Tastic</i> FUNDRAISER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enjoy Fin-tastic food & help raise money \$\$ for our cause. Bring or show this flyer and 20% Net Sales will benefit:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pleasant Valley Historical Society</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> SAVE THE DATE </div> <div style="font-size: small;"> Feb. 7th (Tuesday) 11 am – 8 pm Sharky's Camarillo Phone: 805-322-1441 191 W Ventura Blvd. - Camarillo Town Center Enter fundraiser name at checkout for online orders: PV Historical </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you! We look forward to seeing you.</i></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: orange; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">NOTE!</div> <div style="font-size: x-small;"> Please remember to present* this flyer when ordering or picking up your phone-ahead order. *If your smartphone or tablet device can open this document, you can present it without printing it out. </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">www.sharkys.com</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Not valid with any other discounts or offers. Valid on the date and location listed above. Valid for dine-in or take-out. Manager, please attach flyer to guest check. Event proceeds void if flyers are distributed in or near the restaurant.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Support PV HISTORICAL SOCIETY with a great meal!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bruce's BBQ Pick-up</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$15</p> </div>  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Tri-tip & Chicken, salad, vegetarian beans, bread</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March 7th, 2023 (Tuesday) RESERVE by the previous Friday (March 3rd)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leave message with NAME and NUMBER of meals at 805-482-3660 or email: kg.farrin@gte.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PICK-UP 5 pm to 6 pm at Camarillo Christian Church, 1777 ARNEILL ROAD (corner of Las Posas)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PAY at pick-up time with CASH, or CHECK made to PVHS, or PayPal at www.pvhsonline.org. Click BBQ</p> |

Museum Expansion Fundraising: Sponsoring a Personalized Brick

The Personalized Brick Fundraising Campaign is doing its part in the Museum Expansion Fundraising program. Since the Personalized Brick Campaign launch in July of 2021 over 159 Bricks have already been ordered. The popularity of the Personalized Bricks will continue to escalate all through the Expansion Project. Sponsoring a Personalized Brick today will ensure delivery with the first batch of bricks to be delivered, and secure an early prime location for the displaying of your brick.

Sponsoring a personalized brick, a 4" x 8" brick which will be located and displayed at the PVHS Museum outdoor location, is more than a \$200 donation to the PVHS Museum Expansion fund:

- 1) A brick can be personalized with your name, and/or your family's name, allowing you to be part of the PVHS Museum history.
- 2) Or, a brick can be personalized to honor anyone, or anything, you want to be remembered.

The form to reserve and sponsor a personalized brick is shown on the following page.



PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM EXPANSION

Location of
Personalized
Bricks



"Be a Part of History"

Reserve a place in PVHS Museum history by sponsoring a personalized brick.

You may sponsor a brick in your name, or to honor anyone/anything you want to be remembered.

PLEASE PRINT, maximum 16 spaces per line, including blank spaces and punctuation. All inscriptions will be centered and capitalized. Filler in the engraved area will provide a permanent contrast and protect the quality of the engraving.

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Enclosed is my \$200.00 contribution for a 4" x 8" paver with up to three lines of text.

Make checks payable to *Pleasant Valley Historical Society*; or to use PayPal, please visit our website at pvhsonline.org and use the DONATE button at the top of the webpage.

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Please mail this completed form to: PVHS

Attn: Personalized Brick
PO Box 570
Camarillo, CA 93011

January 2023

The mission of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society and Garden is to acquire, identify, restore and preserve artifacts, documents and photographs related to the Pleasant Valley community; to make the museum and garden a focal point for the dissemination of local history and education of the general public, and to recognize local residents who have provided outstanding service to the Pleasant Valley community.

Location: 720 Las Posas Road, Camarillo

Mailing Address: PVHS, PO Box 570,
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570

Telephone: (805) 482-3660

Email: kg.farrin@aol.com

Website: pvhsonline.org

Newsletter Editor: Manny Hatz



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Search: pleasant valley historical society



PLEASANT VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1964



Thank You to Ivy Lawn
for providing a very generous
grant for printing costs of the
Echoes and other materials.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Permit No. 128

Oxnard, CA

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Pleasant Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 570
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570
Botanical Garden Open: Saturday
12 noon to 4 p.m.