



**PLEASANT VALLEY**  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN  
Established 1964

# The Echo

## *San Buenaventura, the new County Seat*

Last year we celebrated our county's 150<sup>th</sup> year. It was actually 1872 that William Dewey Hobson got some people in the California Assembly to pass a bill, and it was March 22, 1872 that Governor Newton Booth signed it. The separation from Santa Barbara County took effect January 1, 1873. Most of us are aware of Thomas Robert Bard, but Hobson is mostly known in the City of Ventura as a contractor and lobbyist.



William Dewey Hobson

Bard worked through the Assembly to keep the lower 3<sup>rd</sup> of Santa Barbara County part of Santa Barbara. He was a member of the Board of Supervisors for Santa Barbara County and worked with the California Assembly to keep Ventura part of Santa Barbara County.

Wm. Hobson was by nature a lobbyist. He was well liked and gregarious. He got the individuals he needed to pass the "Organic Act" that created the County.

The next step played out in *The Signal*, the first local newspaper in the county, owned by John Harden Bradley. The largest city in the County was Hueneme. In 1871-1872 Bard had finished his wharf and it became the hub of the new County. A. Levy had his business there, not a bank, but more of an agent for the farmers selling their crops and animals and he was well known. Bard fought for Hueneme to be the County seat. His advocate was Dr. C. W. Thacker of Hueneme.

Hobson wanted San Buenaventura to be the seat. It had muddy streets and a few buildings. The Chinese laundries were all on Main St. and threw their wash water into the street making it muddy year-round. Rain only added to the challenges. In construction, Hobson did most of the building in downtown — some of his buildings are still there. He had slid into the Organic Act creating the County that "the seat of Justice shall be the town of San Buenaventura until otherwise provided...".

As a point of interest, there were fewer than 5,000 people in the County and 490 voters.

Thus began the "great Debate" played out in *The Signal*, with Dr. Thacker promoting Hueneme while Wm. Hobson promoted San Buenaventura as the County seat. Dr. Thacker had the advantage of being one of the three newly elected County Supervisors. The other members were J. A. Conway and James Daley of Ventura.



First County Courthouse  
built by Wm. D. Hobson

Continued on Next Page

Once again Mr. Hobson's friends came through. The first letter to the editor promoting Hueneme was presented to *The Signal* by Dr. Thacker. Mr. Bradley of *The Signal* walked across the street to Mr. Hobson's office and gave him a heads-up. Right under the first editorial by Dr. Thacker was Mr. Hobson's rebuttal!

The next battle was for a Court House. In section 7 of the Organic Act, the Board was charged to create the county seat. Hobson quoted, "The Board of Supervisors shall procure and provide a suitable place or places to be used as a court house and jail, and for the various county officers."

Dr. Thacker came back that they did not have the power to "build." Mr. Hobson quoted from the Supervisors' powers "to cause to be erected and furnish a court house, jail and hospital and such other public buildings as necessary."

Mr. Hobson felt that his lobbying could assure that he had 2 of three votes. The land for the first Ventura County House was donated. Dr. Thacker would allow only \$6,000 of the \$10,000 promised for the building. Hobson had a fund-raising party for the rest of the money and San Buenaventura became the County seat.

### ***Isabel Hobson***

Wm. D. Hobson's wife, Isabel (Winemiller) Hobson, had 10 children (3 died in infancy). She had crossed the plains to California in a covered wagon.

California was a unique state for women. The constitution of 1850 was the first to regard a woman as a legal entity financially. She had much of the responsibility of managing his new hotel and later a restaurant in Ventura. Isabel also took advantage of another law in California. A wife could apply for a license of sole trader and she would be eligible for \$500 of her husband's money, if the court approved it! The Court did approve it and he gave her \$500. She became co-proprietor of the Occidental Hotel and was well respected. She died in 1888, at 59 years of age of blood poisoning. W. D. Hobson died 1915 at age of 86.

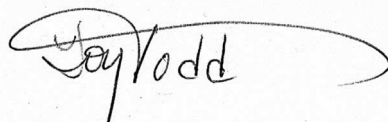
### ***President's Message***

Season's Greetings to one and all. We hope you have had a good year. We have seen new opportunities to keep our museum and garden alive and well. The rainwater helped the garden. The new plantings are doing well. Volunteers have kept the weeds down and the grooming of the garden up!

We have had new collections and gifts. You may have seen the record player from 1911 in our last issue. We have received special donations of historic furniture from Rita Faulders, Byron Edde, David Atkins and others. Thank you so much. From a relative of Pastor W.O. Wood, we received original documentation. One document is the original list of the subscribers to the building of the Springville Church, with the signatures of each and the amount of their donation.

This has been a great year for making presentations to groups, helping with events at the Camarillo Ranch and expanding our presence even without a building. Our volunteers are truly dedicated.

We are anticipating the installation of the concrete pad of the new addition. The old building has been sitting there, sadly, but we see a light at the end of the tunnel. (We are hoping it is not an oncoming train.) As the year ends, perhaps you would be able to make a tax-deductible contribution to the building fund. We are over halfway to the final goal and your help is truly appreciated.



## ***Memories of Pleasant Valley School***

*In the Fulkerson Library collection at PVHM&G, we have Donald D. Howard's 1959 master's thesis in which he explained the origin of the penmanship classes at Pleasant Valley School. "From 1932 to 1938, Pleasant Valley School became a state demonstration school. It was the only school in Ventura County selected during this time. This demonstration school introduced manuscript writing." It is a very clear style of printing. "Onorinda Jones often came to class and demonstrated penmanship," recalled one of her students, Rob Frost.*

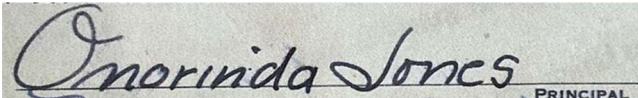
Paula Sotelo Griggs\* - Pleasant Valley Class of '41

"We were taught manuscript writing from kindergarten through eighth grade. When we were in the fifth grade, the last hour was an elective — tumbling, sewing or cursive writing. I chose cursive writing with Mrs. Fulton. That's when I learned to write.

Because of our printing writing style, when we went to Oxnard High School, Pleasant Valley School graduates were immediately recognized. "Oh, you're from Camarillo!" Some kids would ask "When did they let you out?" (of the Camarillo State Hospital!). On the other hand, the teachers appreciated receiving our homework, always neat and legible."

*Governor Gavin Newsom signed a new law on October 13, 2023 making cursive handwriting instruction for first through sixth grade now a required learning for California students, just like English, math and social science.*

*\*Paula sent us her memories in a note that was handwritten in cursive. She attended PV School 1933-1941. Her mother, Julia Torres Sotelo, was among the first honorees of Dons and Doñas in 1964.*



The manuscript signature of Mrs. Jones who served as principal for 35 years.

## ***1913 County Courthouse takes site of James Blackstock home***

Site of the current Ventura City Hall was the site of the home of James Blackstock. His huge house was moved to Main St to allow the new Ventura County Court house to be built in 1912-13—architect A.C. Martin, replacing Wm. Hobson's original court house. As Blackstock's home went down the hill and turned onto Main, the wheels of the platform it was sitting on got stuck in the streetcar tracks on Main. It was quite a feat to get it back on level ground. It still remains at 835 E. Main St., a huge white house. The 2 girls of the family sold it in 2020. They had an estate sale and sold the house.

## ***DON'T BUY THAT LUNCH!***

Instead, invest that money spent that will be gone in a day, to an annual membership for PVHM&G. The enclosed envelope just needs your check and a stamp. Consider raising your membership level this year. It indicates your approval of our efforts to promote and preserve the history of the families, and their contributions, that make the Pleasant Valley what it is today.

A novel idea — how about a monthly "lunch" donation sent in for the Building Project? Also, those on our "Email Only" can use the website to send in dues, or to check the levels of membership.

Funds from dues are mainly used in the operations of the museum — yes, even though we do not have a building yet! Archival preservation materials are costly. They are used weekly as our accession team continues to expand our collections. Other costs are the upkeep of the garden, storage buildings and utilities.

Donations Received September 24<sup>th</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

## MEMORIALS

Donations from **Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer** in memory of:  
Dr. Ken Anderson, Diane Culberson, Marcia Edwards, Jerry Morris

Donation in loving memory of **Dewey & Hazel Culbert, John & Jean Kilroy** from:  
Rod & Doris Harvey

Donation in memory of **Charles Honn** from: Richard Honn & Margeuerite Snow

Donation in memory of **Carole Olsen-Bryan** from: Gerry & Joan Olsen

## TRIBUTES

Tribute from **Carol Yung** honoring Dons/Doñas:  
Lloyd Christie, Greg & Karin Farrin, Allen & Mary Grizzard-Paul, Chuck & Jo Spence

## BUILDING and other DONATIONS

**Bob & Barbara Burrow**

**Elizabeth Daily**

**Byron Edde**

**Susan Measures**

**Vanessa Otto**

**Bob & Sandy Coultas**

**Doug Daily**

**Rod & Doris Harvey**

**Don & Agatha Miller**

**Donna Searcy**

**Carol Spracklen**

**CRTA-Div 28**

**Pat & Tom Dodds**

**Joanne Kennedy**

**Ron & Nan Okum**

**Judith Sitko**

**Bart Stern**

“Looking for a 2023 tax year donation? Consider PVHM&G”

The *Updater* – an e-newsletter bringing Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden news briefs & updates to your e-mail inbox as they happen.

# The Echo



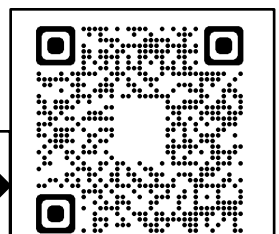
PLEASANT VALLEY  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN  
Established 1964

# Updater

Keeping You –  
*In The Know*

To add your e-mail address to The *Updater* distribution list, visit  
the pvhsonline.org website: [https://pvhsonline.org/up\\_mail/](https://pvhsonline.org/up_mail/)

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## FOR THE GOOD OF PLEASANT VALLEY

We are a historical vessel for the history of the Pleasant Valley's families, farming and industry, and City involvement. We do not just collect artifacts, but we relate them to the pioneers of the area showing how they lived, with furniture and appliances they would have used. We are like no other museum in the county.

We have thousands of pieces of evidence of individuals and families that have contributed to what has brought Pleasant Valley to what it is today. Maybe we have your family history. If not, you are welcome to share it. Each story is unique, and we preserve any documentation to show this. Newspaper clippings, personal letters, and hundreds of photos are stored in dozens of archival boxes, file cabinets and 20 architect's flat file drawers, and this is only the paper items. While waiting for the new construction expansion, we also have 2 cargo bins, 1 rented storage unit, and six structures designed to hold our larger assessed items.

Our garden has displays of horse tack, carpenter's and cobbler tools in our "barn" with descriptions of each item and who donated the items, or who owned them. Camarillo has an active history with the movie industry. Both photographs and saddles of the era are on display.

The "back porch" holds a 1920 Magic Chef stove used mostly for canning. All the necessary equipment is there to help it do its job.

Other display areas specialize in farm and home needs for the 1890s-1930s. From patent medicine displayed in an 1890s medicine buggy to the cobbler items to make shoes, the history is on display. Our wonderful collection of vintage phones from Bill Doctorman has made us a destination for understanding the progression of phones — waiting to be seen again.

It is hard to realize that we have so much to show and to help teach the next generations, yet at this time, without a building, we don't have the structure for people to come and see it. What we can do is take talks out to the community and schools. We continue to bring in new, to us, items and the stories that come with them.

Pleasant Valley Historical Museum and Garden appreciates your support and needs your help to finish our building. We can't wait to welcome you to come and see for yourself!

## Let's Dine Out / Let's Take Out

January 16, 2024

February 13, 2024

March 2024

PVHM+G Invites you to  
**Let's Dine Out  
Let's Take Out**  
at

**OTTAVIO'S**  
Italian Restaurant

1620 Ventura Blvd.  
Camarillo  
805.482.3810

OTTAVIO.COM

Tuesday, January 16th  
3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Dine-In or Take-Out  
**Present this coupon  
to your server**

**SHARKY'S**  
WOODFIRED MEXICAN GRILL

JOIN US FOR A *Fin-Tastic*  
**FUNDRAISER**

Enjoy Fin-tastic food & help raise money \$\$ for our school.  
Bring or show this flyer and **20% Net Sales** will benefit:

**Pleasant Valley  
Historical Society**

**SAVE THE  
DATE**

February 13<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) 11 am - 8 pm  
191 W. Ventura Blvd.  
Phone: 805.322.1441

Dine-In, Take Out, Phone & Online Orders

Enter fundraiser name at checkout for  
online orders: **PV Historical**

*Thank you! We look forward to seeing you.*

**NOTE!** 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.

WWW.SHARKYS.COM

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.

Please check our website for  
March, and future,  
**Let's Dine Out / Let's Eat In**  
Event Dates:

[pvhsonline.org/bbq](http://pvhsonline.org/bbq)



SCAN ME

## ***Echo Sound Bites***

- May, 1916 – A Camarillo family had a wild ride down the Conejo Grade when their horses broke loose, sending the wagon down the grade until it overturned at the bottom. Nobody was hurt!
- June, 1938 – 20 students from Camarillo graduated from Oxnard Union High School.
- August 25, 1939 – the VC Board of Supervisors transferred \$2,000 in funds for two lots, 100' x 201' to the Camarillo family. Harold Burket submitted architectural plans for the new Fire Station building. The VC B of Supervisors matched \$15,000 from the Juan E. Camarillo estate to build the multi-use complex which stands empty today, 83 years after its dedication on June 4, 1941.
- July 22, 1990 – the museum's one-acre Charles Honn Botanical Garden was dedicated thanks to Mr. Honn who spearheaded the development of it, and to a large donation by City Councilman, Bill Esty, in memory of his wife, Helen. A corner of the garden has a plaque dedicated to Helen, along with a CA live oak tree, boulders, and native plants. Three beautiful Coast Redwoods are thriving. This urban botanical garden is now home to monarch butterflies, many varieties of bees, lizards, squirrels, raccoons, a hawk, owl, and a skittish coyote.
- September, 1993 – the garden opened the 27' Amish Gazebo. Although purchased from a company back East, it was built by their CA distributor, Anaheim Gazebo Company, who used local carpenters to assemble it. It has been in continuous use for meetings, receptions and weddings over the years.
- September 14, 2024 – Never too early to mark your calendar for the next Don & Doña BBQ!

## **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, and running through present, a total of 209 Bricks have already been ordered. The popularity of the Personalized Bricks has continued to escalate after the Expansion Building Groundbreaking Event in 2022, and popularity will continue through the construction project. Sponsoring a Personalized Brick today will ensure delivery with the first batch of bricks, 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 displayed on the following page –



# PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Museum Expansion Project

Personalized  
Brick  
Display  
Patio



Buy your brick  
with a click...



SCAN ME

## "Be a Part of History"

Reserve a place in PVHS Museum history by sponsoring a personalized brick to be installed on site as part of the project. You may sponsor a brick in your name or to honor anyone or 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.


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 (PayPal allows payment with a Credit Card), please visit our website at [pvhsonline.org](http://pvhsonline.org) and use the PERSONALIZED BRICK button at the top of the webpage.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this completed form to:

P.V.H.S.

PO Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011-0570

The mission of the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & 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  
(Presently closed for Construction)  
Mailing Address: PVHS, PO Box 570,  
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570  
Telephone: (805) 482-3660  
Email: [pvhmag@gmail.com](mailto:pvhmag@gmail.com)  
Website: [pvhsonline.org](http://pvhsonline.org)  
Newsletter Editor: Manny Hatz



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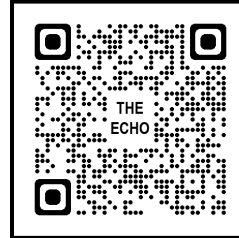


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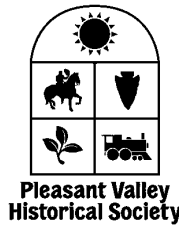


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HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN  
Established 1964

PVHM&G – The Echo



PVHM&G – Home Page



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