

# The

# Echo



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

## *THEY WERE LOST, BUT NOW THEY ARE FOUND!*

With the recent renovation of Dizdar Park, two tombstones of pioneer families were unearthed! The sites were in the “North half of Lot 79” which was beneath the library building/Chamber of Commerce on the NW corner of the cemetery. In Val Rains and Sherwood Milleman’s book, *They Lived and Died in Pleasant Valley*, 2015, she wrote “very few of the PVC tombstones were moved to ILC (Ivy Lawn Cemetery). Those that were not moved have disappeared and we have been unable to learn how or where.” Until now.



The Hill Family

The taller one was for the HILL family. Samuel Hill (1816-1905) and his wife Sarah (Middleton) Hill (1827-1912). Both were born in England. Samuel came to California in 1850, and to Conejo in 1876. They were buried at PVC and moved to ILC in October 1943 without the monument.

Although Anna “Belle” Sisson’s remains were moved to ILC in 1943, for some reason her tombstone was also left behind. At only 12 years old, she was victim of a tragic drowning accident in Piru that took 5 lives. Belle (1888–July 25, 1900) was the daughter of Emerson Sisson, and the granddaughter of Jeremiah

Sisson. Jeremiah and wife, Polly, arrived in PV in 1868 and farmed 44 Acres at the corner of Las Posas/101. He was one of the 3 original trustees of the PV School District.



Anna “Belle” Sisson

The city has decided that the best place for the monuments would be with PVHM. They will deliver them to the garden area where they will be placed with signage explaining their journey from PV Cemetery/Dizdar Park to Charles Honn Botanical Garden to be seen again.

## *President's Message*

The rain has been very good to our garden. Lupine and poppies are blooming, and our volunteers have been removing weeds. The latest (and last) building is ready for its "garden critters" painting by Diane Ellis. You will once again be impressed with her talents. We have obtained some native milk weed and grooming continues.

The museum building has windows and a front door! The floor of the main building has its concrete poured for the bathrooms and support structures. The framing of the bathrooms and accession room is next. Soon the roof and then the outside finishing.

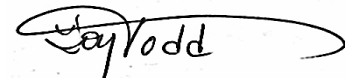
The last monies we need to obtain are for the parking lot and all the concrete work outside and the landscaping required by the City. Again, we need your financial help in this last phase.

We continue to present programs in the community. This is a way to bring local history to the public, while providing exposure for us. Beth Miller has joined the speakers' team, and she is fantastic. You may send an email to [pvhmag@gmail.com](mailto:pvhmag@gmail.com) to request a speaker. A sampling of our program subjects include:

Springville  
Camarillo State Hospital  
Highway 101/Conejo Grade  
The C.J. Daily Family

The Creation of the County  
Dizdar Park/Mike Dizdar  
Military bases in the area  
The E.W. Daily women

Early Children's Books  
Farmers and crops of the area  
The Gisler Family  
Lima Beans/Sugar Beets



## "SOMETHING IS HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM SITE"



The arrival and placement of the two museum air-conditioning/heating units. The units will be connected to the preliminary air ducting; the final air ducting will be installed with the air registers during the installation of the interior ceilings and walls.

## *Harry Manske: A Camarillo Icon*



1936 or later – Harry Manske and his Camarillo Heights Market and service station (which he bought in April 1936). The sign above the store's name reads: Sinclair – Motor Oils. The market was located on Las Posas Road (just west of the intersection of Arneill Road at Las Posas Road). Note the home (which was part of this property) seen in the right rear of the photograph.

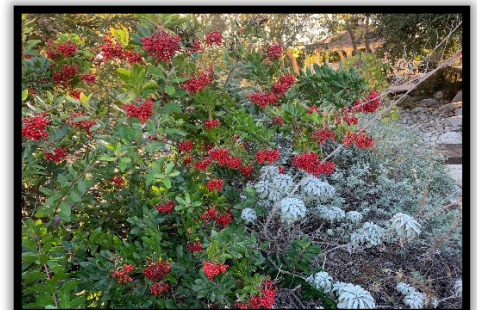
There are some days, events and celebrations that will never be forgotten. For Genevieve, who grew up in Camarillo Heights, she was at the perfect place to hear the news.

### *The End of the Second World War*

by

*Genevieve Mason Peterson*

Harry Manske was a real icon in Camarillo Heights. I believe Harry was from Germany, not sure, but believe so. My parents bought groceries at Harry's Camarillo Heights Market. That's where my brother Bill and I would ride our bikes to his store after school for Twinkies. Banana shortages had forced the company to switch from the banana cream filling to a very popular vanilla cream. The treat originally sold two for a nickel! I was at his store when WWII was over. Car horns were blowing, people coming into the store, jumping out of their cars shouting, "The War is over! The War is over!" Even though I was only 8 years old when it started and almost 12 when it ended, I could feel the thrill of the day. The War is Over!



# *STAN DAILY ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP*

## from the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden



Stan Daily [1935-2016]  
Camarillo Mayor Emeritus

The scholarship is offered to students living in the Pleasant Valley area including Camarillo, Somis, and the Santa Rosa Valley, who write an original research paper on local history.

*An award of \$1,000 may be made to a graduating senior, who produces the best qualifying piece.*

*The subject must be related to the history of the Pleasant Valley area.*

Refer to the PVHM&G website [pvhsonline.org/scholarship](http://pvhsonline.org/scholarship) to view examples of previous winners' essays.

Deadline for submission is **April 29, 2025.**

Send submissions to: [pvhmag@gmail.com](mailto:pvhmag@gmail.com)

For further information, please leave a message at:  
[pvhsonline.org/contact-us/](http://pvhsonline.org/contact-us/) or 805-482-3660

## **Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden**

### **2025 Don and Doña Nomination and Selection**

Since the Pleasant Valley Historical Society's inception, Don and Doña honors have been awarded to individuals who have shown dedication to the community. The PVHS Museum displays six scrapbooks filled with information about previous honorees beginning with the year 1965. We are once again looking for the names of local citizens to receive the recognition of Don or Doña for this year.

We invite you to submit nominations for the 2024 Dons and Doñas. Nominations are accepted until **May 27, 2025.**

Following that date the Don and Doña Selection Committee will meet to consider all nominations. As stated in the Nomination Form included in this ECHO, all nominations are confidential and only known by this committee. The Committee will review the nominations for selection in the 2025 group.

The PVHS Board hosts a get acquainted reception for the honorees and the Board in August. The Annual Don and Doña BBQ to honor the recipients will be held on **August 30, 2025** at the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Parks District Community Center. We look forward to receiving your nominations. Make your plans now for the BBQ and submit those applications for this year's class of Dons and Doñas. For further information please send an email to [bburrow1@msn.com](mailto:bburrow1@msn.com).

The 2025 Dons & Doñas Nomination Form is on the following page.

# Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden

Serving Camarillo, Somis and Santa Rosa Valley since 1964  
720 N. Las Posas Road, P. O. Box 570, Camarillo CA 93011  
Phone 805 482-3660 Website: www.pvhsonline.org

## NOMINATION FORM Selection of 2025 DONS and DOÑAS

Persons being nominated for a Don or Doña shall be:

An individual who has lived in the Camarillo, Somis or Santa Rosa Valley area for at least twenty years, and has provided outstanding community service for a minimum of ten years within these areas, and/or to the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden during that time.

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The names submitted consideration shall be kept CONFIDENTIAL and shall only be made known to the Dons and Doñas Selection Committee.

History of Nominee's Service:

Please attach additional page(s) if more space is required.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed Nomination Form must be mailed with a post mark date no later than **May 27, 2025**.  
Send to: PVHS Dons and Doñas Selection Committee, P. O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011

*Donations Received December 19th through March 17th, 2025*

## **MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

*Donation in memory of 1994 "Don" Randy Churchill from:  
Bob & Barbara Burrow, Diane Randall Mendoza, Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer*

*Donation in memory of 2005 "Don" Howard Hoover from:  
Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer*

*Donation in memory of 2009 "Doña" Marcia Donlon Livingston from:  
Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer*

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

## **TRIBUTES**

*Tribute in honor of Keith & Judy Crenshaw's 55th Anniversary from:  
Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer*

*Tribute in honor of Fred Phipps 92nd Birthday from: Cathy Trainer*

## **BUILDING and other DONATIONS**

*Anonymous*

*Michael Andonian*

*Merrill Berge*

*Steve Blois*

*Dave & Linda Bratz*

*Ryan Charlon Insurance*

*Lloyd Christie*

*Robert De La Torre*

*Linda Donovan*

*Candis Enriquez*

*Greg & Karin Farrin*

*Al & Cindy Fox*

*Janice Garner*

*Judi Gill*

*Alan & Mary Goldberg*

*Richard & Marguerite Honn David & Jackie Kaiser*

*Joanne Kennedy*

*Jim & Nedra Kindig*

*Arlene Leonard*

*Al Lowe*

*Beth Miller*

*Tom & Eileen Maloney*

*Julie Phipps Moore*

*Mary Ann Novak*

*Ottavio's Restaurant*

*Fred Phipps*

*Linda Reynolds*

*Paul Rockenstein*

*Ed Russell*

*Sharkey's Restaurant*

*Somis Thursday Club*

*Gwen Speakes*

*Nancy Steiner-Varosky*

*Debra Theissen*

*Michael Varosky*

*Roberta Weed-Brown*

*Ryan Wells*

**Let's Take Out  
Chicken BBQ Pick-up**

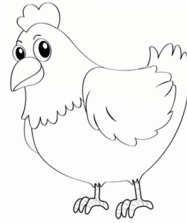
For a delicious dinner, update your calendar to include the following dates:

**April 15, 2025 (Tuesday)**  
**May 14, 2025 (Wednesday)**  
**June 18, 2025 (Wednesday)**

Support the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden

**Chicken BBQ Pick-Up**

Still \$15



Grilled Chicken Breast  
w/ Ginger Peach Glaze  
German Cole Slaw  
[no mayonnaise]  
Vegetarian Beans  
Garlic Bread  
Ginger Cookies

NEXT:

**April 15th [Tuesday]**

5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.  
at

Camarillo Christian Church  
1777 Arneill Road  
[corner of Las Posas]

**MUST RESERVE by previous Friday [4-11-25]**

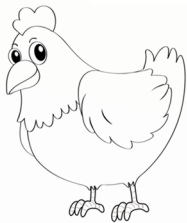
Call 805-482-3660, or email: [pvhmag@gmail.com](mailto:pvhmag@gmail.com)

Pay at pick-up with cash, check payable to PVHS; or PayPal [including CC] at [PVHSONline.org](http://PVHSONline.org)

Support the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden

**Chicken BBQ Pick-Up**

Still \$15



Grilled Chicken Breast  
w/ Ginger Peach Glaze  
German Cole Slaw  
[no mayonnaise]  
Vegetarian Beans  
Garlic Bread  
Ginger Cookies

NEXT:

**May 14th [Wednesday]**

5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.  
at

Camarillo Christian Church  
1777 Arneill Road  
[corner of Las Posas]

**MUST RESERVE by previous Saturday [5-10-25]**

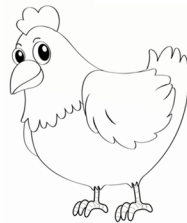
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Support the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden

**Chicken BBQ Pick-Up**

Still \$15



Grilled Chicken Breast  
w/ Ginger Peach Glaze  
German Cole Slaw  
[no mayonnaise]  
Vegetarian Beans  
Garlic Bread  
Ginger Cookies

NEXT:

**June 18th [Wednesday]**

5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.  
at

Camarillo Christian Church  
1777 Arneill Road  
[corner of Las Posas]

**MUST RESERVE by previous Saturday [6-14-25]**

Call 805-482-3660, or email: [pvhmag@gmail.com](mailto:pvhmag@gmail.com)

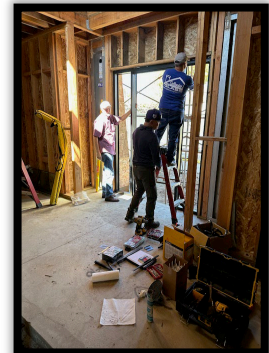
Pay at pick-up with cash, check payable to PVHS; or PayPal [including CC] at [PVHSONline.org](http://PVHSONline.org)



Looking up into the Front Tower



Restroom Plumbing Added



Installation of the Front Door



Front View of Front Tower



Concrete is Poured to Reestablish Floor after Restroom Plumbing is Added



## *Echo Sound Bites*

Just some interesting dates of incorporation of Ventura County's 10 cities:

- 1866, April 2<sup>nd</sup>: San Buenaventura became a city, part of Santa Barbara County.
- 1873, January 1<sup>st</sup>: Ventura become a county, separating from Santa Barbara County.
- 1892: Thomas Bard and D. T. Perkins established Somis as an unincorporated community.
- 1902, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Santa Paula became a city.
- 1903, June 30<sup>th</sup>: Oxnard became a city.
- 1914, July 10<sup>th</sup>: Fillmore became a city.
- 1921, August 5<sup>th</sup>: Ojai became a city.
- 1948, March 24<sup>th</sup>: Port Hueneme became a city.
- 1964, October 7<sup>th</sup>: Thousand Oaks became a city.
- 1964, October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Camarillo became a city.
- 1969, October 10<sup>th</sup>: Simi Valley became a city.
- 1983, July 1<sup>st</sup>: Moorpark became a city.
- 2025, August 30<sup>th</sup>: PVHM&G's annual Don and Doña recognition 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 **281** 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

Buy your brick  
with a click...



Personalized  
Brick  
Display  
Patio



### "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* 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

April 2025

*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.*



# PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN

Established 1964

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

PVHM&G – The Echo



PVHM&G – Home Page



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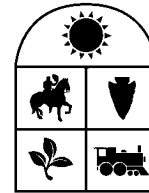
<https://www.instagram.com/pvhsmuseum>



Follow us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/>

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**Pleasant Valley  
Historical Society**



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Pleasant Valley Historical Society