

The

Echo



PLEASANT VALLEY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN
Established 1964

Announcing 2025 Dons and Doñas

Each year the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. Once again, nominations were received from the public and reviewed to determine this year's recipients. Congratulations to the following ten:

Richard "Dick" Bellman

Kim Dallape

Sheryl Gonzalez

Robert "Buddy" Kelley

Larry Kennedy

Darrin Parrent

Rick Pena

Mike Ritchie

Robert Taylor

Stephanie Zierhut

These individuals will be presented to the public at the annual Dons & Doñas BBQ to be held on Saturday, AUGUST 30th at the Pleasant Valley Recreation & Parks' Community Center, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Reserve the date now to participate in honoring these new Dons & Doñas. Formal invitations will be sent out in late July, or reservations can be made now at pvhsonline.org. Select "Events"

President's Message

What an honor it is to be the new President of PVHS. A few years ago, when I retired from St John's, Joanne Kennedy, my friend and fellow retiree, and I looked to see where we could volunteer together. We visited several options in the community, but it was the PVHS Museum that resonated with us both. I had never been in the museum and had barely noticed it driving past. Unfortunately, I've since learned that many people in Camarillo also don't know about the museum and its wonderful garden. My goal is to change that and hope that everyone reading this newsletter can help. The museum is a remarkable resource of our history from the 1800's to the present.

As we embark on the final stage of the expansion project, we do need donations for its completion. There are three ways you can help. You can make a tax-deductible donation (any amount helps); buy a membership for family and friends; and buy a brick showing your support in honor or in memory of someone special who will be forever commemorated in the museum – a truly wonderful gift.

Also consider buying a brick for yourself remembering your time in our community and your support of the museum. (I did!)

Mary Ann Novak, President

Message from Past President

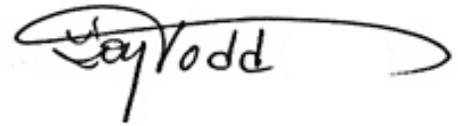
Thank you all for your help and support the past 3 years. With the transitions of the building program, I stayed on an extra year. I truly look forward to the leadership of Mary Ann Novak and the new board members. We “oldies” will still be working!

The museum has not been dormant during the building program. We have added several items to our collections, audited our collection and done repair work as needed. We have new volunteers learning about the museum and readying their skills to be docents.

The garden has new displays and historic items reflecting the history of the area.

Thank you all, it was fun.

Joy Todd, Past President



“SOMETHING IS HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM SITE”



A Weathervane peaks the Museum's new Tower, and the Weathervane's Eagle surveys the Museum Grounds & Garden



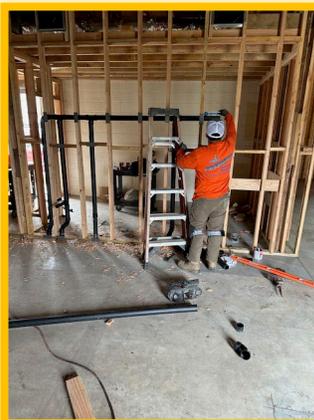
The Resident Hawk eyes the Weathervane's Eagle



The Buckeye is blooming and the bees are buzzing



Roofing is installed on the new expansion room of the Museum. View is looking north from the Garden's Gazebo entrance.



Plumbing is installed for the Museum's two new restrooms. *Tile City* has donated tiling for the flooring and walls.



A view from the new Expansion Room, looking north to the original building's new front entrance. The Accessions Room is at the right of the front entrance. The restrooms are at near right of this photograph.



The Garden's Dry Creek, which begins on the west side of the Gazebo and ends at the east side of the Garden, does occasionally become a reflection pond!

St. John's Seminary's Doheny Gutenberg Bible

Carrie Estelle Betzold was working as a telephone operator when she met Edward Doheny, a self-made businessman who struck it rich in the Los Angeles oil fields. Devout Catholics, during their thirty-year marriage, they would support churches, charities, and libraries. After Doheny's death in 1935, Estelle honored her husband's memory with extraordinary donations to St. John's Seminary. Work had begun on the Edward Laurence Doheny Memorial Library designed by architect Wallace Neff. The three-story building would house the working library on the first floor. The second floor could contain the rare books collection, which eventually included one of the world's most rare books, the Gutenberg Bible. In 1939 Estelle was elevated to the honorary title of Papal Countess by Pope Pius XII.

The library, dedicated in 1940, contained rare books, manuscripts, paper weights, and paintings, valued at \$1,000,000. For years Estelle sought a Gutenberg Bible. In 1944 Mrs. Doheny suffered a severe hemorrhage in her left eye instantly losing its eyesight. The right eye had shown symptoms of glaucoma. Eventually she was almost completely blind. That did not stop Estelle from pursuing her goal. In 1950, her bid of \$70,093 was successful. At the seminary, it was kept in a vault, behind a locked gate and protected by two armed guards. Strict regulations limited scholarly access. Years later restrictions were reduced.

Rita Faulders, antiques expert, rare books librarian, and longtime member of Pleasant Valley Historical Museum, was the last librarian of the Doheny Library (1980-1988). She along with her husband, Dr. Charles R. Faulders, who held advanced degrees in mechanical engineering, played key roles in having the ancient book analyzed for the chemical profiles contained within the ink and its pages. It would help explain Gutenberg's printing process.

Financial difficulties at the seminary led to the decision by the archdiocese to sell the collection. Rita was on staff when Christie's held six auctions over two years. Under Mrs. Doheny's will, the proceeds of the sale were to be used for religious and educational purposes. In 1987, then Archbishop Roger Mahony explained "the tuition for seminarians has risen since Mrs. Doheny first began her gifts in 1940, from \$100 a year to \$20,000." He also explained "insurance restrictions are now so severe that we can no longer obtain insurance coverage on the full value of the collection. The auction included what Mrs. Doheny considered the "crown jewel."

The Doheny volume of the Gutenberg Bible was one of 47 known surviving copies of the 42-lines-per column Gutenberg Bible which Johannes Gutenberg first printed in 1449 or 1450. It was not among the 21 complete copies. A complete Gutenberg Bible contains Volumes I and II.

The Doheny bible contained only one volume, the Old Testament. It was considered incomplete. Described as in pristine condition and in its original binding, it sold at auction for \$5.39 million to Maruzen Co. Ltd of Tokyo, Japan, Japan's biggest bookseller. The auction sales totaled \$13.6 million. The archdiocese planned to fund a foundation intended to increase the enrollment of seminarians. As of 2019 the Doheny Gutenberg Bible was locked away in a Keio vault and inaccessible. Since then, it has been digitized by the Keio University in Tokyo, Japan and is available for public viewing online: Keio University Gutenberg, Tokyo, Japan Hubay 45 (<https://dcollections.lib.keio.ac.jp/en/gutenberg>).

Two campuses at St. John's Seminary

Citing lack of enrollment and financial problems in 2003, the archdiocese decided to close the 42-year-old undergraduate college. In 2017 a developer, Shea Homes, proposed a 300-home active senior community. With just one exception, the undergrad college buildings were razed. The only surviving undergrad college building is the 1961 library. It can be seen on the bluff overlooking Somis Road.

The graduate seminary, founded in 1939, is still active today. The historic chapel, Edward Laurence Doheny Memorial Library and residence halls are still in use and carefully maintained and preserved.

DONATIONS Received March 19th Through June 15th, 2025

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of 1975 Doña Adele Hernandez Flynn from: Adele Walsh

In memory of 1994 "Don" Randy Churchill from: Max Copenhagen

In memory of 1999 "Don" Ira Grooms from:

Judy DeMizio, Greg & Karin Farrin, Val Rains & Adele Walsh, Bill & Joy Todd

In memory of 2008 "Don" Mike Morgan from: Beth Miller

From Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer in memory of:

*Jackie Kaiser, 2008 "Don" Bill Little, 2015 "Don" Hillary Ling,
2017 "Don" Dante Honorico, Anthony "Tony" Pizza*

TRIBUTES

In honor of Rev. Lee Truman's 96th birthday from: Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer

In honor of Gerry & Joan Olsen's 67th anniversary from: Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer

In honor of Doña Adele Stuebing Walsh's 95th birthday from:

Debra Thiessen, Albert Stuebing, Michael Stuebing

BUILDING and other DONATIONS

Anonymous

Dave & Linda Bratz

Sean Casey

Laura & Amanda Czarnecki

Frederic Folino

Susan Granger

Ann & Bill Hulfish

Meadowlark Service League

Scott Family Foundation

Tom Tarantino

Amber's Light Lions Club

Gail Brockett

John Cinatl

Gail DeWolfe

David Gerry

Linda Hagle

Douglas Leoncavallo

Henry Moraga

Ruff Smith

Kristine Teller

Deborah Ward

David Atkins

Bob & Barbara Burrow

Makenna Clark

Harry & Bianca Drummond

Karen Goodman

Carol Haverty

Phil Mcgrath

Brian Nomi

John Spohn

Carolyn & Edgar Trotter

Let's Take Out Chicken BBQ Pick-up

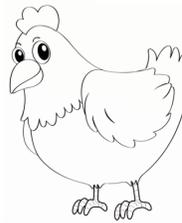
For a delicious dinner, update your calendar to include the following dates:

July 10th, 2025 (Thursday)
August 12th, 2025 (Tuesday)
September 9th, 2025 (Tuesday)

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:

July 10th [Thursday]

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

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

MUST RESERVE by previous Sunday [7-6-25].

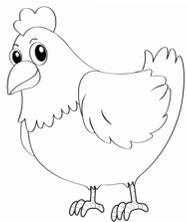
Call 805-482-3660, or email: pvhmag@gmail.com

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

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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:

August 12th [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 [8-8-25].

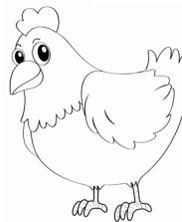
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Chicken BBQ Pick-Up

Still \$15



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

NEXT:

September 9th [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 [9-5-25].

Call 805-482-3660, or email: pvhmag@gmail.com

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

Membership Update

Join, renew anytime, and it is good for a year! [e.g. Join July 13th, 2025. Good until July 31, 2026.] If you haven't renewed this year yet, please do. New membership envelopes will be enclosed in each January *ECHO*.

Congratulations to Stan Daily Essay Scholarship Winner

Madison Geisler, resident of Somis and graduating senior at Thousand Oaks High School, received the 2025 \$1,000 scholarship given by Elizabeth Daily on her essay, "Fulkerson Hardware." It will be printed in the Don/Doña BBQ booklet and is on our website now.

PVHM&G Officers 2025-2026

President: Mary Ann Novak | Vice President: Bob Burrow | Recording Secretary: Debra Stuebing Thiessen
 Corresponding Secretary: Bill Todd | Treasurer: Bob Rust | Past President: Joy Todd.

Board Of Directors

Eric Bergh, Dave Bratz, Max Copenhagen, Gail DeWolfe, Mike Ellias, Greg Farrin, Karin Farrin, Robert Fierro, Mary Goldberg, David Hibbits, Bruce Jochums, Bill Manzer, Betty Jo McDonald, Beth Miller, Beverly Pearson, Rick Pena, Paul Rockenstein, Valerie Tackett, Richard Wagner, Renee Whitlock

Remembering Tweedy

PVHM was recently presented with a replica Springville Street sign from the tract signage that honors all the first City Council members elected in 1964. Edith “Tweedy” Camarillo Rouce was elected out of a field of 26 candidates. Charlotte Craven also presented PVHM with Tweedy’s council nameplate and two of her childhood dolls. Tweedy’s nameplate for meetings was, COUNCILMAN, even though she protested! Tweedy proposed our City motto, “Las Personas son la Ciudad,” at the first council meeting. She was a teacher for twenty years in PVSD, co-founder of “Camarillo Beautiful,” on the VC Fair Board, a charter member of PVHS, a 1979 “Doña,” on the county and state Democratic Central Committees, organized the first Camarillo Fiesta in 1965, and was part of anything in Camarillo that promoted children, heritage and beauty! She died in 1988 at age 79.



Tweedy Rouce 1964



Part of Mayor Kevin Kildee’s presentation read: “These items are a meaningful tribute to Tweedy’s legacy and a reflection of Camarillo’s history. We are proud to support the PVHS’s mission to preserve and share our city’s rich heritage. Thank you for your dedication to keeping Camarillo’s history alive.”



LOST and FOUND

Like many others here in Camarillo, I lost everything in the fire of November 2024. Everything from my past was lost—photos, books and mementos. But thanks to the PVHM, a treasured photo has been located. It is of my first girlfriend, Bernice, wearing my jacket in 1954.

They are also looking for a photo of us at the base of the newly built water tank across from our house in 1951, and a photo of the Boy Scouts in 1952 at the Baptist Church with my father as the Scout Master. For those of you that have lost everything like I did, PVHM may be able to help!

Thank you, Charles Carr, Jr. (ACHS class of '59)

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 **308** 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 is continuing 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...



"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

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
 Website: pvhsonline.org
 Newsletter Editor: Manny Hatz

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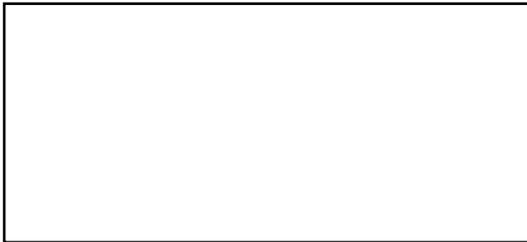
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July 2025

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