



PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN

ESTABLISHED 1964

2026



ROOTS THAT CONTINUE TO GROW



Honoring those whose dedication continues to strengthen
the Pleasant Valley community.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2026

PV RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTER

OUR HISTORY.



OUR COMMUNITY. — OUR FUTURE.

Welcome

from PV Historical Museum & Gardens President,

Mary Ann Novak



Welcome to the 2026 Don and Donas Barbeque! Every year since 1965 we have had the privilege to honor members of our community who have made significant contributions that have touched the lives of others in a positive manner.

Thank you for coming to help us celebrate these most deserving individuals. Enjoy the barbeque, the camaraderie, the stories of our honorees, and be reminded why living in Pleasant Valley so special.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF DON AND DOÑA



Originally a title reserved for royalty, select nobles, and church hierarchs, it is now often used as a mark of esteem for a person of personal, social or official distinction, such as a community leader of long standing. “Since Don Adolfo was one of the few Califórnio land owners still ranching on his property, which he kept intact during his lifetime, the title of Don was used for him, both in direct address while speaking directly to him, and in referring to him.”—Sherry Reynolds.

In 1965, Pleasant Valley Historical Society began the tradition of honoring community citizens. 559 men and women have been honored in the past 58 years.

We select from people nominated each year by the community based on 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.





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AXE HOLE WHISKEY

Aaron's great-great grandpa Bill Keiver was a true entrepreneur. In addition to starting a lucrative logging company in northern Minnesota, he operated a clandestine distillery during Prohibition. His liquor was known as the best in the county until the day the Feds busted in and abruptly "decommissioned" his still with an axe. Grandpa Bill's legacy lives on – *legally* – through Aaron and Calwise Spirits Company.

Axe Hole whiskeys are made in honor of Aaron's family's roots, using a blend of his homemade grain-to-glass bourbon and Midwest bourbon. Our infused expressions are made using only genuine, real ingredients for a taste of nostalgic Americana.



Nearly a century later, Bill Keiver's still helmet tells the tale and pleads its case to visitors at Calwise Spirits distillery and tasting room.

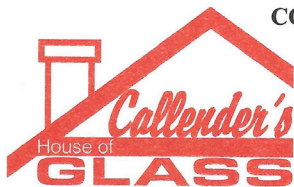


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Congratulations to our
fellow Rotarian,
Doña Nancy Lee Phillips



Congratulations
to all of the
amazing 2026
Dons and Doñas!

from Karin & Greg Farrin



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CONGRATULATIONS
to all the 2026

Pleasant Valley Museum's
Dons & Doñas





Doña Kristie Akl

Inspiration behind kidSTREAM



Kristie realized that she wanted a place where the children of the Pleasant Valley area could experience the hands-on, spark-igniting wonder of science, art, and critical thinking long before they ever reached high school.

The desire to build something meaningful locally eventually grew into kidSTREAM. What began as a simple vision for a children's museum became a multi-year labor of love. From filing for nonprofit status in 2016 to collaborating with local leaders, educators, and families, the journey of bringing kidSTREAM to life has been one of the most rewarding challenges of her life. Seeing it progress to its 2026 grand opening and ribbon-cutting has been an incredible testament to what this community can achieve when we work and build together. During the extensive planning stage, she participated in a variety of outreach events—the STEM hanger at Camarillo Airshows, events at CSU-CI, the Camarillo Ranch, and the Camarillo Library.

Beyond the museum, her heart has remained anchored in local service. Whether it has been leading a Girl Scout troop: guiding a wonderful group of girls from their Kindergarten Daisy days all the way to their high school senior year, working with Creative Arts Workshop, a member of AAUW-Camarillo, or working alongside the dedicated women of the *Meadowlark Service League* to raise funds for local charities, Kristie's goal has always been simple: to give back to the community that gave her family a place to put down their own deep roots.

Kristie was a science teacher at Foothill Technology High School in Ventura. She loved knowing that she was a small part of someone else's origin story, and hopefully a positive one. While she would have been thrilled if every one of her students pursued a career in STEM, her real goal was simpler: she wanted them to leave her classroom believing they were innately capable of achieving whatever they set their minds to, while understanding that true inspiration always requires a little perspiration.

She was named "Woman of the Year," in 2023 by the *West Ventura County Business Alliance*. Kristie and her husband, Nick, have 3 daughters, Nola, Payton, and Charley.

Ultimately, whether inside a biology classroom, on the ground building a museum, or volunteering with local service organizations, her greatest accomplishments are entirely tied to the people of this community. Kristie states, "I am incredibly proud to call Camarillo home, and even prouder to have played a part in nurturing its future."



Bob Burrows

City Planner and Leader



Bob supports the community, having been involved with a number of organizations and activities over the years. Stan Daily nominated him to be on the *Pleasant Valley Historical Society Board* in 2013. Ever since then, Bob has remained very active with PVHS. He has served as President, Vice-president, Secretary, grant writer, and with his extensive familiarity working at the City of Camarillo, currently informs the Board on the expansion project's progress. This will serve the community with an exciting new chapter for preserving the history of the Pleasant Valley area with the updated building and its expanded display areas.

Bob first moved to Camarillo at the age of 7. His family moved from New York state when the company his dad worked for moved to California. Bob attended Pleasant Valley Elementary School. While he was there, Fred Phipps gave him his first planning project—a seed planted for his future career! Bob drew a plan for the relocation of the school's hard court play area in advance of the new courthouse on Ventura Boulevard where the playground was located. He attended Camarillo High School before going to Cal Poly Pomona college where he earned a degree in architecture and a master's degree in urban planning.

While Bob was nearing completion of college, he started working as a summer intern for the city of Camarillo. There he used his college education while learning from his mentor, Tony Boden. Bob was hired as an Assistant Planner in 1977 before being promoted through the ranks and became the Community Development Director for the City. While with the City, Bob was involved with all aspects of planning including advanced planning, current planning, design review, growth management, and redevelopment. Bob was involved in many projects over the years including the Village at the Park Specific Plan, the Camarillo Old Town redevelopment, and more. Following his retirement from the city, Bob worked as a consultant on some of the former redevelopment projects, including the Mian Conference Center.

Bob is a charter member of the *American Planning Association* and previously a member of the *American Institute of Certified Planners*.

Along the way, Bob and his wife Barbara, were married (40 years ago) and raised two daughters, Megan and Rachel, built a house and have done some traveling. Over the years (both individually and collectively) their travels have included trips through 49 states with the 50th state in their sights for October. They now have four grandchildren who keep them busy as well.



Doña Madeline Lee

Veterans and Children Advocate

In 1965, Madeline's family moved to Camarillo, California, when husband, Chief Master Sergeant Richard "R.T." Lee Jr., (2015 "Don"), who is now deceased, was assigned to active duty at Oxnard Air Force Base. Her children attended elementary school and high school here, and they became deeply involved in the community as they supported their children. They spent many hours volunteering at church, school, sports, and community events, building lasting relationships and giving back wherever they could. Service has continued to be a central part of Madeline's life. She is currently an active member of Temple Avenue Baptist Church, ΔΣΘ Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and Eight and Forty.

Throughout her years of service with the *American Legion Auxiliary Camarillo Unit 741*, she has held several chairmanships at district and state levels. Notably, she was the first African American to hold the position of Department (State) of California Auxiliary President! She has mentored many Auxiliary leaders over the years, and at 95 years of age still attends Unit, District and State meetings. R.T. was a strong advocate for veterans, and together they worked on many projects through the American Legion family to support veterans and their families.

She was born in Hampton, Virginia where her life was richly shaped by family, faith, education, service, and community. Education has always been an important part of her journey. Madeline graduated from Howard University and later earned a master's degree in social work from Atlanta University.

In 1969, Madeline began working for the Ventura County Social Services Agency as a social worker in adoptions, specializing in the placement of children with special needs. During her 25 years of service, she had the privilege of meeting many wonderful families who opened their homes and hearts to children who needed love, stability, and care. She states, "that work was one of the great honors of my life."

She was born in Hampton, Virginia where her life was richly shaped by family, faith, education, service, and community. Education has always been an important part of her journey. Madeline graduated from Howard University and later earned a master's degree in social work from Atlanta University.

Madeline and R.T.'s loving family include Richard Lee, Pamela Baxter, Edwin Lee, John Lee, 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Madeline's own words summarize her life best. "I have been fortunate to serve at the local, state, and national levels in programs that benefit veterans, children, and youth. These organizations have given me many opportunities to serve the community, and support causes close to my heart. Through every season of my life, I give glory to God, who has blessed me with longevity and good health and continues to allow me to serve others."

COME EXPERIENCE THE GARDENS!



At one time backyard chickens, cows and horses were common place in the Pleasant Valley! The "Hen House" is the latest addition to the buildings in the Museum Gardens. Inside the Hen House are agricultural artifacts from the early 20th century as well as agricultural crate labels from Camarillo's early agricultural history.



Doña Nancy Lee Phillips

Community Leadership

Nancy has been actively involved in the community for more than 30 years, serving on numerous boards and commissions, including the YMCA, Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), Camarillo PTA Council, 12th District PTA Council, Association of California School Administrators, and Ventura County Commission for Women.

Nancy retired from the County of Ventura on April 1, 2025, and continues to devote time to support the community, serving as Treasurer for the *Rotary Club of Camarillo Sunrise and Gold Coast Veterans Foundation's Board* as the Interim Executive Director. In honor of her late husband, USAF veteran Dennis Phillips, Nancy continues to demonstrate her steadfast commitment to those who have served our nation.

Nancy also volunteers at numerous community events like the annual Ventura County Foodshare Canned Tree event and Ventura County Tattoo Removal Clinic Program, where she was the driving force in acquiring new machines that helped expand services to residents in need. She is also Supervisor Kelly Long's appointee to the VCAAA.

Before working for the County as aide for both Kathy Long and Kelly Long, she worked at PV School District's administrative office for many years, serving under five superintendents.

Nancy Lee Phillips, nee Ciria, is a 6th generation Californian, a descendant on her father's side of Doña Eulalia Perez de Guillen, who was the "Keeper of the Keys" at the San Gabriel Mission. Nancy was born in San Francisco, moved several times because her father worked for the VA, then the family settled in the Canoga Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, where Nancy graduated from high school.

Before moving to the Pleasant Valley in 1992 to raise her then two young children, Rebecca and Timothy, the adventurous lady lived on a 38' sailboat for 8 years! She now has 3 grandchildren, 9-year-old twins Adelyn and Scarlett, and 6-year-old grandson, Oliver.



GOLD COAST VETERANS FOUNDATION

The "Back Porch" was added to the Museum Gardens in August of 2021.

A look through the windows will take you back in time to a kitchen in the 1920's including a 1920 Magic Chef stove.





Daniel Rhymes

Camarillo's "Music Man"

Dan's most significant contribution has been his service to the *Camarillo Community Band*, where he has been an active member since its inception in 1986. Shortly after joining, he volunteered to assist the organization's founder, Mr. Kirk Raymond, with preparing music for rehearsals and performances. , Dan assumed the role of Band Manager in 2000, a position he continues to hold. For more than four decades, he has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of the band while providing local musicians with the opportunity to continue performing and sharing their love of music.

He has generously donated his musical talents to numerous school music programs, including Monte Vista Middle School, Las Colinas Middle School, Los Primeros School, Santa Rosa School, Adolfo Camarillo High School, and Rio Mesa High School. Dan also directed summer band programs through the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District and St. Bonaventure High School.

Throughout his career, he has been a passionate advocate for music education. He organized and directed the *Combined Private Schools Band*, bringing together students from multiple private and home schools into a single concert band experience. By working weekly with individual school programs and conducting combined rehearsals of nearly 70 young musicians, he created opportunities that many small schools could not provide on their own. Dan also volunteered for many years in support of the Ventura County Middle School and High School Honor Band programs, helping young musicians achieve excellence.

His commitment to youth and education also includes service as President of the *Adolfo Camarillo High School Band Boosters* and 17 years of volunteer leadership with the Boy Scouts of America, serving as Cubmaster and Institutional Representative.

He has tutored young musicians since high school. As an educator, Mr. Rhymes taught instrumental music for 21 years at Mesa Union Middle School and 23 years at Saint Bonaventure High School, inspiring countless students to develop their musical abilities and appreciation for the performing arts.

Since 1961, he has maintained a private studio teaching clarinet, flute, and saxophone students. At Trinity Presbyterian Church, he has volunteered extensively in various committees and currently leads the Handbell Choir.

Dan's leadership, mentorship, and commitment to community continue to inspire musicians and volunteers of all ages. Dan relates, "We came to Camarillo because of my work. We stayed because of the people."



**The Camarillo Community Band
proudly congratulates founding
members, Dan & Linda Rhymes,
on 41 years of service, and their
selection as Don and Doña of
Camarillo!**



**Since 1986, their passion as
music educators, community
leaders, and Dan's leadership as
Band Manager since 2000 have
truly harmonized our community.**

***Thank you for keeping the music
alive!***



*Once the Museum is finished, we
welcome you to come and enjoy
our 1911 Edison "Opera" cylinder
phonograph*



**Congratulations,
Dan and Linda
Rhymes!**

*Your dedication to
the musicians,
young and the
young-at-heart, of
Camarillo has been
such a blessing
to our family and
the community
for decades.*



♥ -George &
Carol Blok



Doña Linda Rhymes

Scouting and Song



Music and scouting volunteer opportunities have dominated her life in Camarillo since she and husband, Dan, moved here in 1977. Linda immediately became involved in the Trinity Presbyterian Church music presentations. Linda had a degree in Instrumental Music, and she sang, and either formed or participated in a Brass Ensemble, Recorder Ensemble, Bell Choir, and now is the director of the Trinity Adult Choir.

When their son, Scott, was old enough they became involved in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Scouting is such a confidence builder and Eagle Scout projects almost always help the community and make a strong impression on the scouts. Linda was a Cub Scout Pack Leader until Scott became a Boy Scout and then Dan took over as the Cub Master.

When their daughter, Jennifer, was old enough they wanted to enroll her in Brownies. There was no room for her in local troops so, with the help of a church friend, she formed a new troop for the girls. Linda became involved at the district level and helped form a committee to review Gold Award applications and interview girls for this highest honor. Both Linda and Dan remained in Scouts long after their children aged out.

She became involved in the *Fine Arts for Youth* (1982) committee in Camarillo. The group presented concerts for 5th grade students in Pleasant Valley School District. Each concert was preceded by a class assembly visit from one or two of the committee members presenting a workshop on the "theme" of that year's program. They also taught concert etiquette and encouraged the students to appreciate the performing arts.

In 1986 Linda became a charter member of the *Camarillo Community Band* playing euphonium, French horn and trumpet and currently is the Historian for the band. This group gives musicians the opportunity to continue to play their instruments after high school or college. It also provides an opportunity for Camarillo folks to appreciate the "small town" feeling of going to a free concert in the park.

In 1991 she became an organizing member of *Save Our Kids Music* (SOKM) after music was cut from the PVSD budget. It is an all-volunteer organization of parents, teachers and community members whose purpose is to facilitate music education for the youth of Camarillo and to be "Instrumental in Student Success." Linda also plays with the *Ventura British Brass Band*.

In their home studio, Dan and Linda have taught music to hundreds of students of all ages. They help children discover a love for their instrument and inspire adults to start playing again, with some even joining the Camarillo Community Band.

Dan and Linda have been blessed to spend nearly five decades participating in the Camarillo community through music, scouting, and volunteer service. The friendships they've made and the opportunities they've had to serve are the reasons they're happy to call Camarillo home.



The PV Mercantile offers a variety of items for the Camarillo shopper of yesteryear. From household cleaning and repair items, to cookware, sewing supplies to create the latest hats and dresses, toys, candies and much more, there's something for everyone at the PV Mercantile!





Don William Schulze

Heart of a Lion



An immigrant from Germany at the age of 15 in 1952 to Ellis Island, Bill was overwhelmed with that experience of noise, crowds and uncertainty. A few days later after his mother tackled the necessary paperwork, he flew to San Francisco to meet his sister who had been in the States a few years. He had graduated from high school in Germany, but because he only knew “20 words in English”, he had to go back to 11th grade in California. He states that although he was looking for the “Streets of Gold,” the devil made it “loaded with potholes.”

After a year of meaningless work, he stumbled on to a Marine Corps recruiter and found his salvation. The Corps gave Bill stability, discipline, educational opportunities, but most of all a “Can Do” attitude.

After his tour of duty, he started college and met Ginger, who was pursuing her teaching credential. They married in 1961 and moved to Ventura. She taught 1st grade at Dos Caminos ES for 33 years, retired in 1999, and died just last year. When Bill retired in 2001, they built their “dream house” in rural Somis. The Schulze’s neighbor, Ken Anderson, encouraged Bill to join the Camarillo-Somis Lions Club because of its strong commitment to do volunteer work. And that begins the “rest of the story.”

During the last twenty years, he has managed three major fund-raising Lions projects raising over \$4 million during those years. In one form or another, 100% of the proceeds from those projects came back to the Ventura County community and national assistance programs. It might be the diabetes test equipment they donated to Ventura County for all of their clinics, the vision equipment that was purchased which allowed testing over ten thousand of our district’s school children, childhood cancer support, as well as the various youth programs including the 805 special needs Baseball organization, Boy and Girls Club, Food Share and food pantries, and the special BBQ’s that donate to other organizations or to be auctions for their fundraisers. Bill participated in almost all of the volunteer Lion projects over the years.

Although after being run over by a car in 2024, restricting his manual labor, Bill recovered and fought back to continue to serve the community. He is the club treasurer, as he says, “for the foreseeable future,” and lives by the Club motto, “We Serve.”

Bill’s children, Alex and Suzanne, are members of the Lions Clubs, and granddaughter, Ava started the Leo’s Club at RCHS. He has 4 grands, and 8 great-grands.

CONGRATULATIONS, DAD--BILL SCHULZE

Today, we celebrate a truly remarkable honor and an extraordinary man. Receiving the PVHM "Don" Award is a well-deserved recognition of your lifelong dedication to preserving the rich history and heritage of Camarillo. Through your commitment, generosity, and countless hours of service, you have helped ensure that the stories of our community will continue to inspire future generations.

Our family, however, you have always been much more than your accomplishments. You are a man of integrity, kindness, wisdom, and quiet strength. You have led by example, showing us the value of hard work, service to others, and taking pride in where we come from.

Your legacy extends far beyond the history you have helped preserve. It lives on in your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who are proud to carry forward the values you have instilled in all of us.

We are incredibly proud of you and grateful to celebrate this special milestone with you.

Congratulations on this well-earned honor. May you always know how deeply you are loved, appreciated, and admired.

With all our love and congratulations,

Your Children--Suzanne and Alexander Schulze

Your Grandchildren--Marc, Anthony, Eithina, and Ava

Your Great-Grandchildren--Shane, Brody, Peyton, Blake, Taytum, Haydon, Sonny, and Parker

**Congratulations,
"Don" Bill Schulze!**

*You have the heart of a
Lion, a fascinating story,
and you are my favorite
Lithuanian!!*



Jerry Ann Spork



Doña Kimberly Stephenson

Community Catalyst

Dr. Kim Marra Stephenson has lived in Camarillo since 1976 (minus the college years). Whether in youth sports, Pt. Mugu airshows, or student government during the elementary and middle years; teaching CCD at St. Mary Magdalen, cheerleading and scorekeeping at Rio Mesa, or stocking, selling, and cobbling at Earl Joseph Shoes as a teen, she has consistently been—and continues to be—an active community member.

She learned customer service from the first mayor of Camarillo, Earl Joseph, who established and operated his shoe store with the motto, “a Camarillo Family Tradition,” for the first 30 years, followed by her mother and stepfather, Corrine and Dave Larson, who owned it for the next 31 years. That foundation has served her well as a community servant and career public school educator, including 22 years in the *Conejo Valley Unified* and *Oxnard Union High School Districts* including Principal of *Adolfo Camarillo High School*.

Kim is the president and a founding member of the *Ventura County Women’s Forum Collaborative*, a Board Member of the *Social Justice Fund for Ventura County*, and an active member of the *Pleasant Valley Lions*, *AAUW Camarillo*, and *League of Women Voters*, as well as a volunteer for *Paw Works Animal Rescue*, the *Camarillo Rotary Youth Empowerment Summit*, and local marathons and community events. She recently represented Ventura County women at the *United Nations* and served on a task force for *The California Department of Education*.

For her work, Kim has been recognized as *Woman of the Year for California’s 19th State Senate District* and received the *Women’s Leadership Award from CSU-CI Multicultural Programs* and the *Melvin Jones Fellowship for Humanitarian Service from Lions Clubs International*, among others.

She has raised two strong young women with her husband, Dave, as well as several dogs, chickens, and ducks. Their home has served as a gathering place for many meetings and events; their gardens featured on the *Camarillo Hospice Garden Tour*.

Kim related, “I am truly honored and grateful to be added to the roster of esteemed Camarillo Dons and Donas. What draws me to Pleasant Valley is a sense of community—family, friends, and colleagues, or former students, customers, and classmates. No matter how long it has been, it feels like ‘just yesterday.’”



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2026 DONS & DOÑAS

*Kristie, Robert, Madeline,
Nancy Lee, Daniel,
Linda, William,
Kimberly, Barton, Bill*



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Honoring a Legacy of Service

The **Camarillo-Somis Lions Club** proudly celebrates our outstanding members for their exceptional leadership and dedication to the Camarillo-Somis community, and beyond.

Congratulations to Our 2026 Honorees

Don Bill Schulze

Doña Kim Stephenson

Your deep commitment and tireless generosity reflect the very best of what it means to serve others. Thank you for representing the **Camarillo-Somis Lions Club** with such distinction and heartfelt pride at this year's **Pleasant Valley Historical Society Dons and Doñas Dinner**.



Don Barton Stern

Community Steward



Bart is a native of Camarillo and has lived in the Pleasant Valley area for over forty years. His attachment to community service is evidenced by his participation in numerous boards. He has served as Chair of the Boards of the *Camarillo Chamber of Commerce*, *Camarillo Rotary Club*, *Camarillo Pony Baseball League*, the *CSU-CI School of Business Advisory Council* and the *City of Camarillo Rent Mediation Board*.

Bart was Appointed by the *Ventura County Board of Supervisors* as Chair of the *Ventura County Property Tax Appeals Board* for over 10 years. He has also served on the Board of Directors of *Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo*, *Casa Pacifica* and *Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation*, and on the *Advisory Councils of Camarillo Health Care District* and *Habitat for Humanity*. Besides being a PVHM member for over 15 years, he recently joined the *Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden Board*, sharing his knowledge and experience for our Building Expansion Project.

He is President of *Ventura Investment Company*, "VIC", a second-generation family company, that specializes in the purchase, management and disposition of multifamily and commercial investments in the western United States. The firm employs approximately 90 people and operates properties that include approximately 4,000 residential and commercial units. It has been based in Camarillo since 1958, with additional offices in Las Vegas, NV.

Bart and his wife, Heidi, live in Santa Rosa Valley. Their children, Robert (28), George (27), Katherine (23) and Camille (20) attended K-12 in Pleasant Valley School District and Camarillo High. Bart graduated from USC.

As a native Camarillan, he states, "I hold our community and the preservation of its history in the highest regard. The climate and location are both ideal, but the people are the best part of our community."



Ventura Investment Co. congratulates and thanks Barton Stern and all of the 2026 Dons and Donas for their service to our community!





"Don"
William
Schulze

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to our dear
friend and
fellow reader!**

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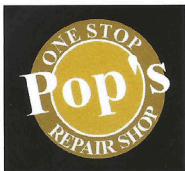
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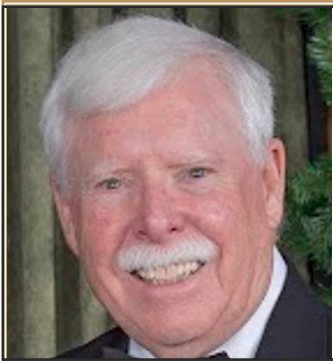
Workers sorting lima beans.



Workers stack lima beans.



Confirming inventory before shipping by train



Don Bill Thomas

Aviation Leader



Bill moved to Camarillo in 1982 while on active duty as a naval aviator, assigned to the Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu. He was in charge of the Navy's flight test of the new Tomahawk cruise missile that is still being deployed off of Iran.

He has been extremely active in our community ever since. 1983-1986 he was an adult leader with his sons, Michael and Keith's, Boy Scout troop, Little League baseball, soccer, and church—First Lutheran and Trinity Presbyterian Churches. While still in the Navy at Pt Mugu, they supported each other while Bill earned an MBA from Pepperdine and Bill's wife, Pat, furthered her university education, in addition to all the pressures of being a Navy wife and both of them raising teen age boys.

After retiring from active duty in 1988 Bill began a second career at Northrop Grumman for 24 years. Bill's participation in various community service organizations truly blossomed. From 2000 to 2020, Bill served as Camarillo's public member on the *Camarillo Airport Authority*. He returned in 2023 as the Authority's alternate public member.

In 2014 he joined the *Cancer Support Community Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara* serving on that organization's Board of Directors. From 2012 to the present, Bill serves as the Air Boss for "Wings Over Camarillo" airshow. He has been responsible for the timely and safe execution of this complex show which has provided well over \$800K to local non-profits and promoted our youth in science and aviation. He uses their personal airplane and has given over 150 local youths their first flight as part of the *Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program*.

In addition to these local organizations, Bill was a founding member, President, and board member of the *A-7 Corsair II Association*—a national organization that honors all USN and USAF pilots who flew that venerable light attack aircraft.

Bill comments, "We have lived in the same house and neighborhood in Camarillo since 1982. We have had several opportunities and pressures to move, but have found that we really like Ventura County, Camarillo and our neighborhood. We are now the senior folks in the neighborhood and serve as stand-in grandparents, especially during the Covid lockdown. The weather is great, the people are great and we are still enjoying living here".



Communities are remembered by the stories they choose to preserve.

The Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Gardens is more than a building—it is the keeper of our shared heritage. By completing the museum, we preserve the people, places, and traditions that shaped Pleasant Valley and ensure future generations understand where they came from. Your gift doesn't simply build walls; it builds a legacy.

Donate on our website at <https://pvhsonline.org>

Click



*We are not building a museum for ourselves, we are building it
for those who come after us.*





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"Don" Bob Burrow

"Don" Bart Stern



MATTY PERKINS

A graduate of Rancho Campana High School

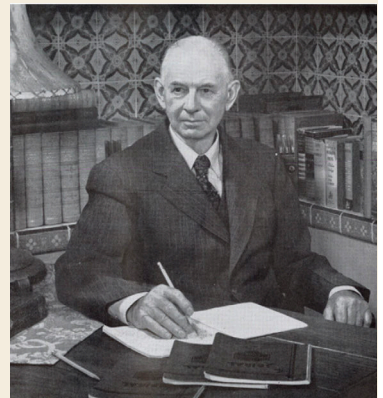
For college, he is currently planning on attending CSU-Monterey Bay studying Film and Biology pursuing those careers for a little bit, before eventually moving back to the Ventura County area as a teacher.

BY MATTY PERKINS

“Right where we stand today, my father planted an orchard of walnuts” declares Stan Daily, former mayor of Camarillo. He is at the groundbreaking of a major construction project in Camarillo on March 4th, 2014. “My dad would be very proud to see,” Stan continues, “that we are no longer growing walnuts on this land, but that we are now growing students...” He finishes. The crowd, full of students, teachers, and parents applauds. A few minutes later, Stan Daily strikes a shovel into the ground; This marks the first step in the construction of Camarillo’s second high school, known as Rancho Campana (RCHS).

Rancho Campana, a 2021 and 2026 California Distinguished school, opened its doors in 2015 and has bolstered 8 graduating classes of seniors since. But there is a bit more to that story: Let me, Matty Perkins, a current senior at Rancho Campana, take you back...

Around 15 million years ago, the Pacific and North American tectonic plates started slipping against each other, releasing Volcanic Magma onto the surface. According to Thad Robins, a Science teacher at Los Colinas middle school, this event created the Conejo Volcanic



Wendell Phillips Daily at his desk

Mountains, more colloquially known by the residents of Pleasant Valley as “The Grade.” The ashes from these volcanoes also left behind the fertile soil of the Oxnard Plains.

In the late 1800s, the Bell family immigrated to the area of the Somis Adobes and claimed 77 acres of this fertile volcanic land as “Bell Ranch.” A direct neighbor to the Daily family, this rancho was well known in the area as can be seen from multiple mentions in the 100+ year old news archives from the Ventura County Star newspaper!

In November 2004, Measure H passed by 62.7% of Ventura County voters, allocating 135 million dollars to build and improve schools. A Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) was formed of community members including parent and teacher of Camarillo, Erin Huizinga. In October of that same year, Bell Ranch was purchased by the Oxnard Union High School District. Here, a new school was planned to be built. The BOC came to the decision that this school, unlike others in the area, would offer multiple different pathways, or, “academies” focused on work-based learning, funneling the students directly into the local workforces of engineering, health sciences, and the arts. As can be seen on architectural drawings stored on CDS and within archives of the nearby Camarillo Public Library, the working title of this institute was the “Camarillo Academy High School.”

Several ideas for names for this new school were proposed, including, “Las Posas High”, “Pleasant Valley High”, “Tres Campanas”, and “Adelante High.” The name “Bell Ranch High” was considered the most popular. However, the district at the time had a policy that new schools couldn’t be named after people, and so “Bell Ranch High” was off the table. So, after months of deliberation, they settled on the Spanish translation for Bell Ranch: Rancho (de) Campana!

After groundbreaking, a year was spent on construction. Then in the Fall of 2015, 200 freshmen and 200 sophomores were welcomed into the school. A mascot hadn’t been decided yet, nor school colors! According to Sam K, a former student, everything from “The Turtles” to 3 “The Golden Eagles” was proposed. The purple and silver lion Monty the Monarch won: the mascot of RCHS would be The Monarchs. (Look again at the last four letters of “Monarchs”)



Rancho Campana under construction

So, the rest is history. The first class of those initial 200 sophomores graduated in 2018, and since then, nearly

1700 graduates have passed through its halls, such as Sam Kristofferson (Class of 2018) who now works as a successful journalist in the area! Rancho Campana, additionally, ranks as one of the best schools in the state, and the current #1 school for academics in the Oxnard Union High School District. It was even awarded as a California Distinguished school in both 2021 AND 2026!

Soon, I will join these graduating students as I sprout into the next chapter of my life and leave Rancho Campana behind. But I know that wherever I go, this school will stay with me. In the volcanic ash that built this stone, the generations of hands that farmed this soil, the hours of deliberation that planned these walls, the hundreds of workers who laid these bricks, the thousands of students that have graced these halls, and the hundreds of teachers who have helped us thrive. Although Rancho Campana is young, I have no doubt that it will grow, like a bed of strawberries, into something amazing for Camarillo and our wonderful community!



COME EXPERIENCE THE GARDENS!

GATHER



OBSERVE





Why all the demand for Lima beans?

Well, they weren't glamorous, but they kept well, traveled well, cost little, and fed a lot of people.

We thought you might enjoy trying some imagined recipes from early Camarillo agricultural days.



FROM THE KITCHEN OF

Sarah Lewis

A nourishing, wartime bread that makes good use of our California lima beans. Moist, wholesome and satisfying.

RECIPE: *Lima Bean
Victory Bread*

SERVES: *1 loaf*

DATE: _____

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup dried lima beans*
- 3 cups water*
- 2 tablespoons shortening*
- 1 cup sugar*
- 1 teaspoon salt*
- 2 eggs*
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour*
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder*
- ½ teaspoon baking soda*
- 1 teaspoon vanilla*
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg (optional)*
- ½ cup raisins or chopped nuts (optional)*

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Sort and rinse lima beans. Place in a saucepan with 3 cups water. Bring to a boil, then simmer until very tender, about 1½ hours. Drain and mash until smooth. Measure 1¾ cups mashed beans (you should have this after cooking).*
- 2. Cream shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Add mashed beans and salt; mix well.*
- 3. Beat eggs and add to mixture. Stir in vanilla.*
- 4. Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and nutmeg. Add to bean mixture and stir just until blended. Fold in raisins or nuts if using.*
- 5. Spoon into a greased 9x5-inch loaf pan.*
- 6. Bake at 350°F for 55–65 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.*
- 7. Cool in pan 10 minutes, then turn out to cool completely.*

*Celebrating the families who cultivated
the fertile fields of Rancho Calleguas.*



Carmen Camarillo



FROM THE KITCHEN OF

Etta Crowley Daily

A creamy, comforting side dish made with tender California lima beans. A family favorite that was served with many meals on the ranch.

RECIPE: *Creamed Lima Beans*

SERVES: 6-8

DATE: _____

INGREDIENTS

2 cups dried lima beans
6 cups water
1 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons butter
1 small onion, finely chopped
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 cups milk
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
Pinch of sugar (optional)
Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

DIRECTIONS

1. Sort and rinse lima beans. Place in a pot with 6 cups water and 1 teaspoon salt. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer gently until very tender, about 1½ to 2 hours. Drain, reserving 1/2 cup of the cooking liquid.
2. In a saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion and cook until soft and translucent.
3. Stir in flour and cook for 1–2 minutes, stirring constantly, until lightly golden.
4. Gradually whisk in milk and reserved cooking liquid. Cook, stirring, until thickened and smooth.
5. Add lima beans, salt, pepper and sugar, if using. Stir gently to coat the beans with the creamy sauce.
6. Simmer for 5 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning.
7. Garnish with chopped parsley and serve hot.

Celebrating the families who cultivated the fertile fields of Rancho Calleguas.

FROM THE KITCHEN OF

Maria K. Pappas

A fresh and creamy twist on a California classic. This hummus celebrates our local lima beans and the Mediterranean traditions that bring people together.

RECIPE: *Lima Bean Hummus*

SERVES: 8-10

DATE: June 1964

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups cooked lima beans
(or 1 can (15 oz.) lima beans, drained and rinsed)
1/4 cup tahini (sesame paste)
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice (about 2 lemons)
1 clove garlic, minced
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
2–4 tablespoons water
(to reach desired consistency)
Paprika, for garnish
Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

DIRECTIONS

1. In a food processor or blender, combine lima beans, tahini, lemon juice, garlic, olive oil, cumin, salt and pepper.
2. Process until smooth and creamy, stopping to scrape down the sides as needed.
3. Add water, one tablespoon at a time, until hummus reaches your preferred texture—thick and creamy.
4. Taste and adjust seasoning with additional lemon juice, salt or pepper as desired.
5. Spoon into a serving bowl and drizzle with a little olive oil. Sprinkle with paprika and chopped parsley.
6. Serve with warm pita bread, fresh vegetables or crackers. Refrigerate any leftovers.

A modern way to enjoy the beans that helped build the farms and families of Pleasant Valley.



Congratulations 2026 Dons & Doñas





PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENTS

1966 – 1969 JACK McEWEN [3 years]
1969 – 1983 JACK FULKERSON [14]
1983 – 1992 BETTY RUTHERFORD [9]
1992 – 1994 FRED ROLLYSON
1994 – 1996 LIZ DAILY
1996 – 1998 RON FRANZ
1998 – 2002 ERIC DAILY [4]
2002 – 2005 IRA GROOMS [3]
2005 – 2006 PAIGE HIBBITS
2006 – 2008 DAVID HIBBITS
2008 – 2010 LIZ DAILY
2010 – 2011 PAIGE HIBBITS
2011 – 2013 STAN DAILY
2013 – 2015 FRANKLIN ROTH
2015 – 2018 MAX COPENHAGEN [3]
2018 – 2020 JOY TODD
2020 - 2022 BOB BURROW
2022 - 2025 JOY TODD
2025 - 2027 MARY ANN NOVAK

2026-2027 Board Members are:

Eric Bergh, Bob Burrow,
Max Copenhagen, Gail DeWolfe,
Mike Ellias, Greg & Karin Farrin,
Bob Fierro, Mary Goldberg,
David Hibbits, Bruce Jochums, Sarah Karlsson,
Bill Manzer, Beth Miller, Mary Ann Novak,
Beverly Pearson, Paul Rockenstein,
Bob Rust, Bart Stern, Valerie Whitlock-Tackett,
Debra Thiessen, Bill & Joy Todd,
Richard Wagner, Renee Whitlock

Dates of Interest:

March, 1986 – PVHS signed contract with the City of Camarillo for our present building—formerly the Camino Water District offices, well, and reservoir.

November, 1988 – PVHS opened to public at 720 Los Posas Road after extensive modifications to its interior by members of the society.

November, 1993 – Amish Garden Gazebo opened to public for intimate events such as small weddings, luncheons, and parties.

April, 2017– Mural painted by muralist, Lisa Kelly, on entire east wall of museum.

March, 2020 – “The Barn” built

August, 2021 – Diane Ellias Painted mural in east garden area

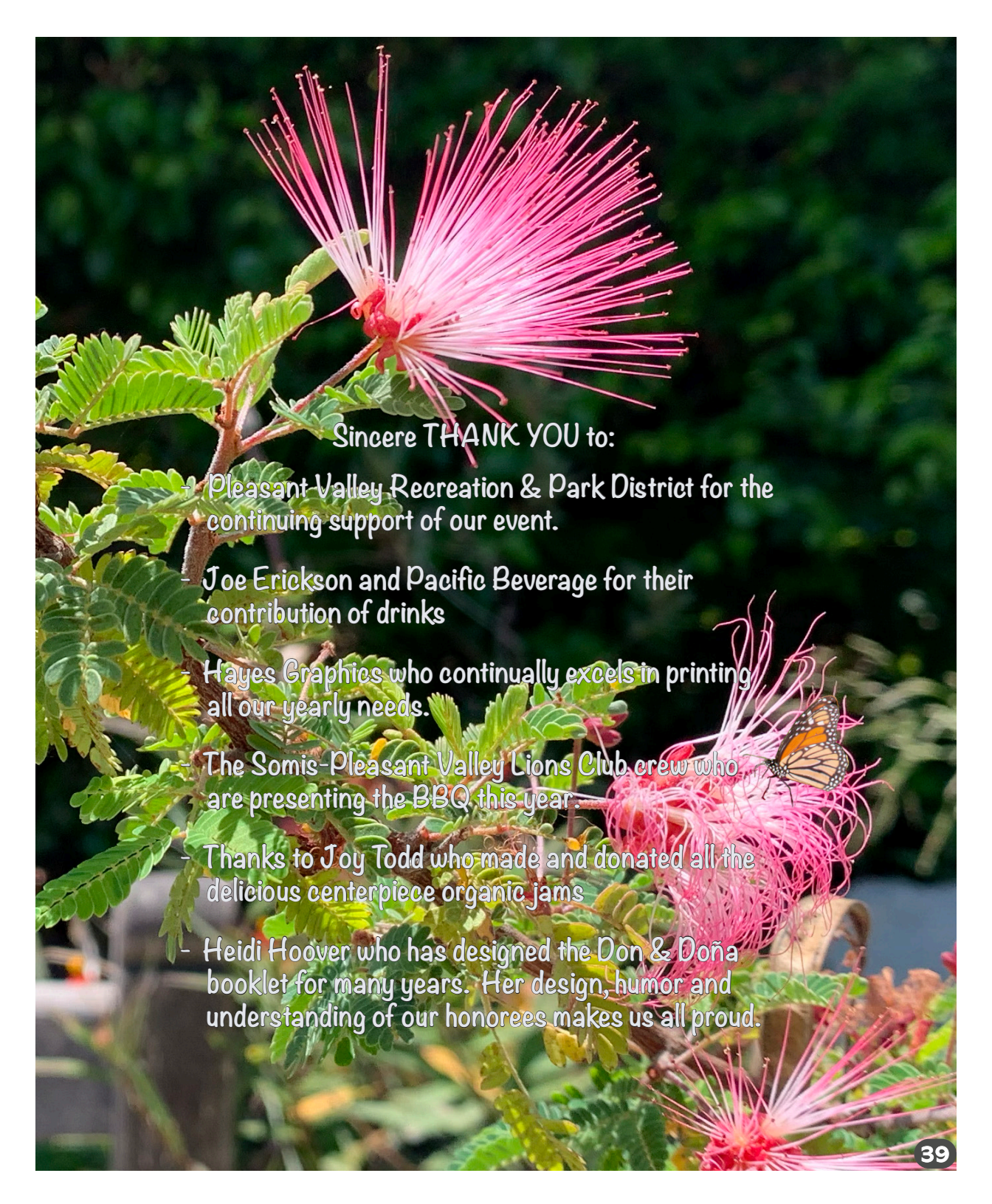
August, 2021 – “Back Porch”built

May, 2022 – “Medicine Buggy Barn” built

July, 2022 – “Smithy” built

October, 2022 – “PV Mercantile” built

August, 2025 “The Hen House” built

A close-up photograph of pink bottlebrush flowers with long, thin stamens. A monarch butterfly is perched on one of the flowers in the lower right. The background is a soft-focus green.

Sincere THANK YOU to:

- Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District for the continuing support of our event.
- Joe Erickson and Pacific Beverage for their contribution of drinks
- Hayes Graphics who continually excels in printing all our yearly needs.
- The Somis-Pleasant Valley Lions Club crew who are presenting the BBQ this year.
- Thanks to Joy Todd who made and donated all the delicious centerpiece organic jams
- Heidi Hoover who has designed the Don & Doña booklet for many years. Her design, humor and understanding of our honorees makes us all proud.

BUILDING our LEGACY

Buying a memorial brick for the patio, like 400+ people have done already, is a good way to show your support. Scan the QR code to bring you to the link.

*Buy your brick
with a click...*



SCAN ME



PLEASANT VALLEY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN
Established 1964

Located at

720 Las Posas Road
(just east of Rosewood)

**Garden Gazebo is closed until
construction completed**

Contact Us:

P.O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011
Tele: 805-482-3660
Email at: PVHMAG@gmail.com

Connect with Us:

www.pvhsociety.org



Pleasant Valley Historical Society Museum