



## *Letters!*

*Thank you for your stories, comments, suggestions and corrections!*

*by*

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2020

*7/3 - Isabella 'Nunie' Camarillo Burket*

Karin, thanks for the history and photos. Mr. C, as evidenced by some of the old photos, seems to have had at least two sets of solid color horses: The big white ones for big people, and the small black ponies for the kids. When I figure how to take a picture of a picture, I'll send you some of Juanita---the little black pony he gave me.

She would puff out her girth as one tightened the cinch, then relax a short distance down the trail, and you would roll over and off she would go! You would catch her grazing a short distance away. We would wander the trails behind Mission Canyon and I rode her in horse shows. She was the first of many horses.

-Cheers-

Edo McGowan

*7/17 - Happy Birthday, Carmen!*

Your article was so well done. I liked the music that was included too. Thanks so much to you and the others who helped.

-Cynthia Mattson

Great tribute. I can see her smiling and hear her laughing. Love the "El Rancho Grande" song - brought back many memories, but I could only remember 1/3 of the lyrics.

-Adele Walsh

This was very interesting, educational and fun. I loved listening to the song from the link you furnished. Carmen was special to everyone. Thank you for all the work you do on the Friday stories to entertain us this summer.

-Audra Seldeen

*7/24 - Rosa's Photo Album in 1908*

Thanks so much again for the photos of Rosa and Ave in 1908-1910. They were something I did not know existed and I was so excited to see them! Thanks to the Marvels for saving and sharing them!

-Martina Nicholson

Thank you for all the interesting information  
-Liz Daily

*7/31 - Adolfo's Automobiles*

Another great read! Thank you.

-Adele Walsh

Thanks for another interesting view of the past

-Liz

Karin, thank you for adding me. I totally love this info!!!!

-Gary Blum

*8/7 - Around the Camarillo Ranch with Rosa*

WOW these interior photos are INCREDIBLE. I wish the CRF had them when we were restoring the House.

-Gary Blum

Another interesting insight into the early history of the area.

Thank you all for your work.

-Liz

*8/14 - Memories of Meliton*

This is a great write up on Meliton and his family. Please tell Sherry Reynolds it is a wonderful tribute to him. Pictures I've never seen before. Quite a man for sure. Thank you again for sharing,

-Audra Seldeen

Another terrific article! I never met him but knew of him.

**-Sharon Hosier**

### *8/21 - Joel and Walter*

Thank you for sharing this story.

As a former Santa Rosa Valley School student, I remembered seeing Mr. McCrea at our school carnivals.

Tall and handsome, and he was friendly to all.

My school bus would pass his front house, and a few times I remembered seeing him sitting on the front porch reading the news paper from time to time.

He wore a big grayish cowboy hat!

Today when I pass the house driving to T.O. sometimes I'll look over at the porch and remember his presence in our SRV.

**-Lisa Lutz (Santa Rosa Valley Resident)**

Well, Karin, again a great article and again this one touched "home":

Joel & Francis were Taylor neighbors & friends too! Prior to our moving to Camarillo ('48) we lived on my grandparents' John & Rachel Taylor ranch on what was then known as Peach Hill, situated between McCrea's place and Moorpark. Joel and dad used each other's planting & harvesting equipment & a deep friendship. Mom and Francis, among many other things, did a lot of volunteer work including wrapping bandages during WW2. David and Jody were the same age as my oldest sister, went to Moorpark HS together & she dated oldest then.

When needed, McCrea's babysat the Taylor kids, much to our delight! One Christmas we girls even received beautifully boxed "storybook dolls" so popular then that she had displayed on their big Christmas tree.

So, so many memories. But one that still comes to mind most of all was seeing the big white fences that surrounded Joel's pastures & fields and knowing we were almost home!

**-Sharon Hosier**

### *8/28 - Bottling the Past*

Another winner!

Chase Bro's. Dairy was our supply of lots & lots of milk. (With a family of 5 kids & somehow almost always more than 7 people around the table, we used lots and lots of milk!

The Warren Chases were friends and fellow members of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church at the corner of Ventura Blvd & Arneill Rd. Mrs. Chase was choir director for many years & Warren sang in the choir and occasionally discreetly napped in back row during extra-long messages in warm weather! 😊. Mrs. Chase also taught piano lessons which two of my sisters tackled. My other sister had an office job at the dairy while still in the VC area...and had a long time crush on their youngest son! 😊

**-Sharon Hosier**

Gosh, was this a fun read! I came to Camarillo in 1973, I remember:

- 1) The little cash and carry dairy store on Fifth and Rice and went there many times;
- 2) having horses here for 50 years, both of the **Giacopuzzi** vets (Richard and Michael) are well known to me;

3) **Adohr Dairy**, when it was selling and dismantling, offered used lumber, as much as you could carry for \$25 a load. I had a long trailer and collected a whole trailer load, including many of the thick boards from the bull pen, which are still in use at my place today (cut up and made into walkways) lumber in those days was very thick, 2" vs. today's 1 1/2" and called 2"; Also at the **Adohr Dairy**, Lynn Preiss and I had an impromptu tour at the first of this year of the milk barns and many of the old buildings that are still there. She could tell you so much about that dairy and the whole family (as I'm sure she has.)

4) **Billiwhack Dairy**: A few years ago there was a Craigslist ad: "Old Porter saddle for sale," I went out and it was the Billiwhack dairy on Alisal Road that I didn't know had existed. There were still silos, and the office building was like a museum. I bought the saddle, and an old letter dated I believe in the 1940's came with it. If you haven't been there, you might take a ride out and see if they would donate to your dairy collection. I remember there were many old pictures on the wall.

5) And saving the best 'til last, **Chase Bros Dairy**, the original people were of course good friends with Adolfo Camarillo and his family and shared horses for breeding over the years. The Camarillo White Horse I bought at the auction in 1987 (Juanita, about 9 months old at the time) was born from one of the Chase Bros. mares named Paloma (mama) who had been bred to the Pancho Carmen's white stallion Pancho. Juanita was Carmen's last foal.

Now you can see why this article was so much fun to read; brought many memories back.

Another great job by your committee!  
-Audra Seldeen

Great read. Brought back good memories of the "Good Old Days" and I learned some new facts.

A descendent of the couple who ran Adolfo's Dairy is a resident at Atria. I don't know if anyone has ever interviewed her. Her mother had died when she was quite young and she and her siblings went to live with their grandparents who ran the dairy.

-Adele Walsh

### *9/11 - Los Rancheros Visitadores*

This was a very entertaining read ... the Los Rancheros Visitadores has always been an enchanting subject as it has so many of the historical people from Ventura and Santa Barbara areas (as well as many from other states). I can understand why the men loved "getting away" to be with other men who shared the true western life; away from the trials and tribulations of the modern, hectic pace of the cities. Thanks to your contributors and staff for putting this story together.

-Audra Seldeen

Wow! Another well researched historical article! Your writing continues to bring the past alive! We thank you!

-Tom and Theresa Marvel

### *9/18 Camarillo Ranch Gardens*

Another great job. You girls leave no leaf unturned. I learn a lot.

-Adele Walsh

### *9/25 - Growing up in Ventura County*

Thanks Karin, Tom called me as well. He reminded me Onorinda Jones gave me a bracelet for my 8th grade graduation, El

Tecolote has dinner for 99 cents and Carmen's Cafe had cherry phosphate soda, although I preferred the lemon cola at Carmen's. I went to Pleasant Valley School K-8th grade with Tommy and Janie Leonard who were twins. I still have my kindergarten class picture. Along with Tom and Jane Leonard I frequently see other classmates like Tom Nuckols, and Dick Asmus. We all feel, at 77 years of age, we grew up at a special time in a great town. I appreciate the walk down memory lane.

-Alice Sweetland

*10/2 - Ralph Mahan: Looking Back at the Pleasant Valley*

Another wonderful edition of our local history, again with wonderful pictures. Thanks so much for all your good work.

-Joan McConnell

*10/9 - Adolfo Camarillo High School*

Wow, that was a wonderful issue. I knew many of those early teachers as we moved here in 1960 and some lived in our newly built neighborhood.....We knew the Hustons and Ken was a very likable person.....Having retired from teaching and moving to Camarillo, the education community was of prime interest for me. I look forward to each week's mailing and thank you for including me on the mailing list.

-Val Rains

What a wonderful job you ladies are doing. Especially thank you for the articles that have included my father. ( MELITON)

CONGRATS I am already looking towards next week's issue!!!

-Rey Ortiz

Thank you Karin and team. This was fun reading stories of the people who went to

Adolfo Camarillo High School at about the same time I went to my high school in Bellflower, CA graduating in 1963. Adolfo made an impression on all that went to sing happy birthday to him; remembering his Cadillac driving at 90 years old, coming out on the balcony, etc. Great issue!

-Audra Seldeen

*12/4 - Camarillo Christmas Parade*

Thanks very much; sending on to siblings, nieces and nephews.

-Ruth Taylor Kilday

*12/10 - A Peek inside Santa's Sack*

These are always so interesting!

Thanks for sending them.

-Liz Daily

Yes, most truly! I remember when the presents flooded the room out to the piano corner, which was once where a sofa was. The house full of merriment and laughter and the smell of good food. And everyone having a great time!

Thank you for this wonderful issue! I had a Madame Alexander doll from Adolfo when I was little, she was gorgeous with blue velvet and silk in her dress, and golden curls. He was indeed kind to us— the children in his family as well as the people on the ranch.

I also remember this as a tamale-making time of year, maybe that could be another story! I loved the toy article and will pass it on to others!

-Martina Nicholson

*12/18 - Christmas Traditions*

Once again what a wonderful article you and your team have put together. I have enjoyed each and every one of them.

They bring back many memories. I've also learned a lot. Wish you all a [MERRY CHRISTMAS](#). GOD BLESS.

-Rey Ortiz

### *12/31 - Rose Parade*

Thank you for choosing the Rose Parade for a newsletter. Riding the white horses in the Rose Parades was one of the highlights of my life. I was happy to see my memories could be used in the article; but enjoyed all the other contributors' recollections just as much. Thank you for continuing to keep the entire Camarillo Legacy alive and going, especially during this time when people can't come to the ranch. We are very lucky you and your team are not letting Adolfo Camarillo be forgotten.

-Audra Seldeen

### **2021**

#### *1/8 - Snow in Camarillo*

What a nice article regarding the times it snowed in Camarillo, Oxnard and Ventura County. I did not know it snowed that much in our area. Thanks for the nice article.

-Barbara Burrows

What a delightful read "Snow" was. After living in Camarillo 50 years, I can imagine how exciting it must have been to get that much snow. Really a fun article. Thank you for a thorough job!

-Audra Seldeen

Thanks very much for the well-researched article on Camarillo's snow. I sent it to my nieces in Colorado Springs who will read it to their mother who is in Assisted Living. We're hoping Peggy Ann will remember that day.

-Ruth Taylor Kilday

*On behalf of the Taylor family*

#### *1/15 - Resolutions and New Year's Eve*

Thanks to all for more interesting info.

-Cynthia Mattson

#### *1/22 - Bohlin Article & Saddles*

Another winning article. Sure is fun to read these; and we all appreciate your hard work in turning them out!

-Audra Seldeen

#### *1/29 - Hello Operator*

It was great. I remember the party lines in Camarillo, 1938 and through the forties and maybe into the fifties. We had a neighbor who loved to talk and it was hard for my parents to get a call through. They even asked her as she was talking to another neighbor how long she would be on the line. Rather common occurrence. Doesn't seem that long ago. Also the operators knew you too. You make history come alive! Will read the article several times, it is so interesting!

-Genevieve Mason Peterson

#### *2/5 - Street Names in Camarillo*

Nice article, it is a good read - thank you...

-Rita Moraga

Thank you very much for the article.

-John Frisk

It was fun reading the article on the old streets and how they got their names. Just a little more info on Jody Lane - the young couple remodeling 25 Jody Lane is my grandson, Gregory Thiessen and his fiancé Morgan Schioppi. Small world.

-Adele Walsh

Truly enjoyed the articles on names of roads. The one you wrote and mentioned Dawson Road I believed was named for the pastor at The Pleasant Valley Church. That is where we attended as did all the Gerry's. Rev. Dawson was very well like, he joined the navy as a Chaplain and left the church to serve our country in WWII.

He died on a Japanese ship carrying American prisoners being taken to a camp in the Philippines, ironically the ship was sunk by American pilots not knowing it carried American servicemen. In one of my Mother's scrapbooks there was an article in the paper about Rev. Dawson establishing a church for servicemen in the jungles of the Philippines. I knew him as our pastor, I was only eight years old so these were things I heard that happened and at a very young age not always accurate but left an impression on me and Like I said, can't say it is all 100% accurate either. Interesting what, as a child, what you think you hear and what is fact. Never quote me when I tell stories I heard as a child.

Nancy and Harold Neish were good friends of my parents.

Then there was John Arneill (Arneill road) But don't think I saw his name. Beth these stories, for me, are so interesting as I knew some of these people. And the one of the Gerry Road was interesting. Eloise and I, growing up, played together a lot. It is fun to see she is involved with the stories of Camarillo. She is a good story teller! Looking forward to the next story!!!!

**-Genevieve Mason Peterson**

*2/12 - Arneill Ranch & Arneill Road*

Another great piece of history.

Thank you.

**-Adele Walsh**

You are doing a marvelous job of sharing so much of our Camarillo Ranch and Camarillo

early days with everyone. You all put so much work into it. The collection is growing and will become part of your library when things open up again (after COVID); and the public can read it when researching our history. I am amazed at how many facts and details you put into each newsletter. Thank you all so much for all your work.

**-Audra Seldeen**

I thoroughly enjoyed the article you wrote about the Arneill road. I knew the Taylor family very well! Keep up the great work! It was indeed a story on its own!!!!

**-Genevieve Mason Peterson**

*2/19 - Mary Howard Smith*

Thank you Karin and team for another super article! We love them! I also can't wait to see the Friday articles on the website.... 😊

**-Theresa Marvel**

Another great article. Mary was good friends with my mom and dad and grandparents since before my arrival into this world. In fact, several summers Mary brought Sambo to the Taylor Ranch (Peach Hill in Moorpark) to be "cared for" and played with by our brood for several weeks at a time. Gentle Sambo was good with kids — at least until I overstepped the boundaries and decided (2-3 years old) to get a ride. But only way I saw to get up was via the tail. That was Sambo's limit and kicked me away. (Another early example of my hard head! And another lesson I learned the hard way! Black & blue around eyes & forehead and a tender bottom from a good spanking.). We remained friends but always face to face from then on.

What I remember about Mary most was that she always drove that big dark green "truck" that they had when she came to visit us once

we moved from Grandpa's ranch to Arneill's in Camarillo. I vividly remember seeing Dad "swallowed up" under its hood when he adjusted timing (?) so it didn't idle so roughly. All I could see were his legs sticking out! I always thought it was so huge! A little kid's perspective.

**-Sharon Hosier**

Another winning issue! I really enjoyed this as I had not heard of either the Smiths or the Frisks; and see how all the pioneer families all tie together in so many ways. Thank you for all your work!

**-Audra Seldeen**

### *2/26 - Tour of Somis - Part 1*

Wonderful articles and how privileged I feel to have known Annette, Stephen and of course Rebecca and Jeremy. Also many, many members of the Fulkerson family. I need to share a piece of humor with you. We moved here to Camarillo in June of 1960 and lived in the Blue Lace Manor housing tract which was built on a walnut orchard so many of our homes had a walnut tree in our front yard. I learned much about walnuts. One day I decided to visit some friends on Walnut Street in Somis and I mentioned that one day I was going to visit Somis crossing the bridge. They laughed and told me I was in Somis, all of it...I was shocked that the town was so small; I thought Camarillo was small. Ah, those early days!

**-Val Rains**

Another great article! My grandmother— (Rachel Gould Taylor of Moorpark then) was always involved in Somis activities, usually at the "Women's Club," but that was when I was just a tot (late '40's and '50s) & definitely not paying much attention! But I definitely remember driving through town & being fascinated with the little community on the "main drag", and of course going to school with lots of Somis kids!

**-Sharon Hosier**

### *3/12 - The McCrea Ranch*

Great article about the McCrea family and their ranching history.

My family along with local vaqueros and cowboys worked side by side with McCreas. Joel McCrea would travel long distances to attend brandings and barbecues.

Hope you have talked to some of the folks that I told Beth about. Ventura County has a rich history of farming and ranching. Lots of stories.

James Arness owned a ranch in Simi Valley which is now the American Jewish University.

**-Rob and Margaret Frost**

This brings back some memories. In the early to mid 1950s I went to Catholic High in Santa Barbara which played football against Villanova Prep in Ojai. One of the McCrea boys went to Villanova and played against us. I used to go on the cattle drives at the big Hollister Ranch in Gaviota. Memories are fun to fill in. There is a whole history that needs to be collected of the various remaining ranches circa 1920 to 1960 as that kind of life was fading out. Tom Dibblee's Juan y Lolita still exists and somewhere I have a history written by one of its ranch hands. Ah Ha-----  
--- I found it and it is an excellent sketch of the life on that ranch. Now the trick is to unbundle it and get it to you.

One of the last ranches locally was Marion Moreno's. He was old enough to have breakfast with Moses. I suspect he was in his 80s when I was in my teens. He rode a horse into town from his foothill ranch with a mule in tow and did his shopping. As kids we would ride over to his ranch and go help him with his cattle. He lived as they did in the mid to late 1800's-----all horse drawn, coal oil lamps, no electricity, hand pumped wells, wood for cooking and heat. He had no transport other than horse drawn. Those



experiences just don't exist for the average person.

**-Edo McGowan**

### *3/19 - Prescriptions from the Past*

That was a delightful read! Thank you for sending "Prescriptions from the Past".

**-Colleen Robertson**

The articles just keep getting better and better. So fun and enjoyable reading about Camarillo and all the people who came much earlier than we did. A town of 300 people, can you imagine? That was my high school population in the 1960's. I came in 1973, and we couldn't go to a restaurant or grocery store without seeing your neighbors. But almost 50 years later, very seldom do you see anyone except the new "newcomers."

Thank you for all your work.

**-Audra Seldeen**

I read your article with the greatest of interest. I found it quite informative. However, I would point out to you one minor error in fact. My father sold his business to Mr. Poggi in 1959, not 1957. For what it's worth.

**-Joe Fossati**

### *3/26 - AAUW*

Another great read with lots of information. Thank you.

**-Adele Walsh**

This is wonderful! I did not know of these efforts with AAUW, and also the protection of the town from a commercial airport. Thanks so much for sending it. It is nice to know also that Carmen Camarillo Jones was one of the profiles of women to be used to enhance understanding of women in history.

With gratitude,

**-Martina Nicholson**

### *4/2 - Faith and Friendship*

Thanks for this wonderful story of the way the churches got built. You filled in a big part of what I wanted to know about St. Mary Magdalen Chapel, as well as the other churches. I am delighted that Juan Camarillo gave the land for the Baptist church. He was ahead of his time in being Ecumenical and it was generous and as you reported, a great example of being community-spirited.

**-Martina Nicholson**

Juan gave the land for the Magdalen Chapel to the community but found that it did not belong to the community but the diocese of LA. I think he was sad about this.

This was from a conversation with my mother.

**-Edo McGowan**

### *4/9 - Max Riave*

A great tribute to a wonderful man.

Thank you,

**-Adele Walsh**

My great uncle, Morris King was a cattle rancher in Fillmore, Sespe and Piru Canyon. He served with Max Riave in the same unit in France during WW1. Uncle Morris was fond of Max, because he kept their unit in touch until they all had passed on.

One of Camarillo's beloved evangelists was Captain Ray Lewis. He served in the Episcopal Church Army. Under his leadership St. Columba's Church was established. Until the church was built, he held services in any and all available "halls" in town--even Griffith Brothers mortuary.

Construction of the church on Los Posas Road meant we had to drill a water well. Lynn Hall said he would drill the well if the church men would do the roughnecking (labor.) Several farmers, Al Aggen, Cint Hutchins, Dan Hartman, Norm Frost, and others stepped up to the task.

I remember hearing Al Aggen tell Captain Lewis that he should get some jeans, that his preacher uniform would not do.

Ray Lewis and Max Riave were great friends. So Ray went to see Max about some jeans. Max told him to try on a pair. When he brought them to the counter, Max wanted to know if they fit. Ray said the waist was good, but the legs were long and could Max alter them. Max measured Ray, put the jeans on the counter and stapled the cuffs.

Ray used to travel the world doing his preaching. He stayed with us often and told me the story of the jeans.—A Jewish businessman and an Episcopal preacher doing business and being great friends. They were both great men. Admired and loved by all who knew them.

**-Rob and Margaret Frost**

I really enjoyed that story. Camarillo has a wonderful history and it is great that you all bring it together.

**-Susan Andrews**

*4/16- Museum of Ventura County  
and Dudley House*

You all have certainly been busy. Very interesting articles. It is wonderful to get the history and stories from the past. I'm sure the writings will be used in many ways in the local history of these places!

**- Jean Hakes**

*To all our readers & comment writers:*

*THANK YOU so very much for your stories, suggestions, corrections and support! We couldn't write the articles without your help!*

*Sincerely,*

*The Research Team*

*Barbara Burrows, Karin Farrin,*

*Mary Goldberg, Beth Miller.*

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