



Volume 1, No. 3

Antelope Valley Rural Museum

DEC 2017

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EDITOR’S MESSAGE

Dayle DeBry

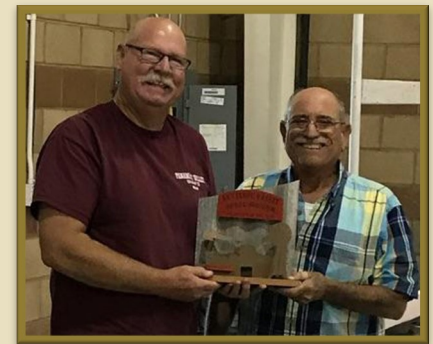
What a year this has been! So many great things happened for us in 2017 and *will* happen in 2018. The directors and members of the AVRM are the best group of people to work with—we all have a common goal and meet those goals with compassion and a incredible work ethic.

From the showcases and indoor displays, Rural Olympics and community queens; planning fundraising events and research library setup; to the tractors, hay loaders, trucks and hot rod tractors; everyone has their niche and does an outstanding job in making sure everything is just right.

Our new book, “Lancaster, California Through Time,” will be available at the Museum on December 16th. What a pleasure it has been to work with Norma Gurba, Karl Peterson and Bill Rawlings. This is a wonderful book we are sure you will enjoy. Hundreds of hours were spent—all volunteer—making sure the best photos were used and the history behind each of the photos was researched and written.

We will break ground for our new building after the Fair in 2018—what a tremendous accomplishment!

To all of the AVRM volunteers, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyous, healthy and blessed New Year!



Left: The “book crew” - Norma Gurba, Dayle DeBry, Karl Peterson & Bill Rawlings.

Right: 2017 Volunteer of the Year, Jeff Godde (left) with finance officer Bill Rawlings.



RAWLINGS' REVIEW

Thank You for making 2017 our most successful year to date on every level! Another year like this and we will have no problem meeting our commitment for our share of the new museum building!

The biggest NEW news is the publication of the book *Lancaster, California Through Time* to be released in a few days. It was an honor to co-author this book with AVRМ members Norma Gurba, Dayle DeBry, and Karl Peterson. The writing skills of both Norma and Dayle are already proven in their previous books. I am in awe of the teamwork that went into the research and collection of information for this project. Many of you are familiar with Karl's photo and historical posts on Facebook. He not only recreated the NOW scenes for the book, but also helped select and edit many of the THEN photos.

I am truly excited about this book. Profits from books purchased from the AV Rural Museum will go to the preservation of AV history, as well as the development and growth of the AV Rural Museum, as will all royalties. BUT profits from books purchased elsewhere will benefit that vendor. So PLEASE consider ordering from us.

I hope many of you will attend the several opportunities listed in the COMING EVENTS, but especially I encourage you to come to the museum on December 16th to pick up your signed copy of *Lancaster, California Through Time* in time for Christmas, then January 6th in the museum for our special pictorial presentation by Norma Gurba, meet & greet with the authors, and discussion with all four authors about the new book. Please consider attending our January 13th Flapjack Fundraiser. \$10 for all you can eat breakfast served by the AVRМ Board Members.

REMINDER—MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



It's **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** time. Come to any of these events and renew in person, mail to our P.O. Box, or on our website. You may also donate, purchase books, and pay memberships using PayPal, or now by using your credit card. You may even offer a monthly donation with your credit card for the first time on our website. See page 6 for membership application.

Here's to a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bill

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2017—2018

DECEMBER 2: Board meeting the 1st Saturday of the month and the Museum is open from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 16: Museum open the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00—2:00 p.m. Meet the authors of our new book "Lancaster, California Through Time."

JANUARY 6, 2018: Discussion and photos of new "Lancaster, California Through Time" book with Norma Gurba at the AVRМ 11:00 a.m. Board meeting the 1st Saturday of the month and the Museum is open from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

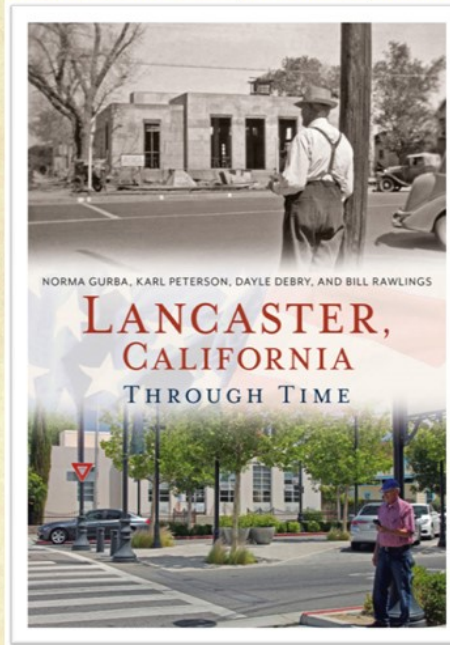
JANUARY 13, 2018: Flapjack Fundraiser at Lancaster Applebee's. \$10.00 per person. Please see directors for ticket purchase. "Lancaster, California Through Time" book will also be available for purchase at the fundraiser.

JANUARY 20, 2018: Museum open the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00—2:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 3, 2018: Board meeting the 1st Saturday of the month and the Museum is open from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 8, 2018: Bill Rawlings AVRМ & new book presentation at Kern Antelope Historical Society, Wanda Kirk Library, in Rosamond at 5:30 p.m.

NEW ! in time for Christmas
The Antelope Valley Rural Museum is Proud to present our new history book written by four of our members and published by Arcadia.



\$25.00 sales tax included
shipping available for \$3.00

Signed Copies
Only available through the AV Rural Museum
Visit the Museum
Meet the Authors

Sat. 12/16 8am -2pm

Sat. 1/6/18 11am
Norma Gurba
discussion & photos

Sat. 1/13/18
8 am - 10 am
Lancaster Applebee's
Flapjack Fundraiser
Meet the Authors
Breakfast \$10
PRESALE ONLY

Available for pre order through
avmuseum.org & avmuseum@verizon.net





NORMA GURBA, KARL PETERSON, DAYLE DEBRY, AND BILL RAWLINGS

LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA THROUGH TIME



**Lancaster,
California Through Time**
by Norma Gurba, Karl Peterson,
Dayle DeBry, and Bill Rawlings

ISBN: 978-1-6350-0060-3
\$22.99 | 96 pp. | paperback

ARCADIA PUBLISHING AND The History Press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A History of Lancaster, California

Lancaster, California Through Time explores the community’s architectural legacy, which is constantly changing. Although many of its earliest structures have disappeared or exist in dilapidated remains, a handful of architectural treasures have endured and are superbly illustrated via a wonderful scope of vintage photographs.

Lancaster has been the institutional and community center of the Valley since the 1880s, the era of the famous Southern California "land boom." Previously considered an uninhabitable area, its history unfolded with the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) route between San Joaquin Valley and Los Angeles Basin during the summer of 1876. Just as a freeway does today, the construction of a railroad always meant development all along the route.

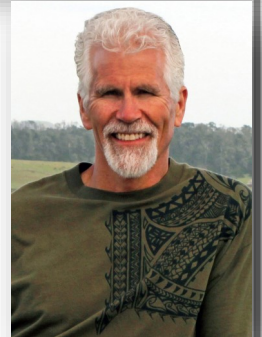
This Lancaster, from more than 130 years ago, is responsible for creating the Lancaster of today. What started as a small ranching and farming community soon became known throughout Southern California for its expansive fields of alfalfa and substantial poultry ranches, and then later for its association with record-breaking aviation and aerospace achievements.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



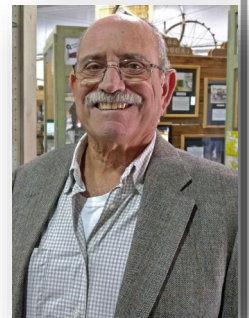
Norma Gurba is a local historian and the author of several regional publications. She is also the former curator/director of the City of Lancaster Museum/Art Gallery.

Life-long Valley resident, Karl Peterson (photography) has been working at his craft since the 1970s. He strives to preserve Antelope Valley’s photographic history for future generations.



Antelope Valley author and historian, Dayle DeBry, is also the district manager for the Antelope Valley Cemetery District. Honoring the history of local veterans is one of her passions.

Bill Rawlings, born into a family of Valley pioneers, was the prime moving force for establishing the Antelope Valley Rural Museum of History in 2009.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS STORY

One of the most intriguing bits of Antelope Valley's holiday lore occurred in December 1947. This is an account from Earl Specht, AVRМ member. Earl helps to scan, catalog and restore photos for the Museum.



Two days before Christmas, 6-year-old Earl Specht was playing with his older sister and three cousins in a field on his family's Westside ranch when a military cargo plane flew over them.

"Santa went back into the plane and a large box was pushed out of the airplane on a parachute, which opened up and after Santa gave us another wave, the door closed."

"It passed very low over the ranch, so low that we could see the pilots waving," Specht, now living in the Netherlands, wrote in an account printed by West Antelope Valley Historical Society newsletter

editor Dayle DeBry in the society's December newsletter several years ago.

Specht wrote that he remembers the happening "just like it was yesterday." He continued: "We were very surprised to see such a plane over the ranch flying so low, but we all waved back. The plane did not fly away but seemed to climb a bit into the sky and returned, flying again over the ranch. Then a side door opened up on the plane and a Santa Claus waved at us. "Santa went back into the plane and a large box was pushed out of the airplane on a parachute, which opened up and after Santa gave us another wave, the door closed."



Earl Specht—1947

The children ran toward the descending box, trying to get there before it landed. Specht and his cousin Patti were the littlest, so while the older children climbed a barbed wire fence they had to run to a gate. "Of course we were too late," Specht wrote. "The parachute had landed and by that time the rest of the family (who had heard the low-flying aircraft) had arrived too. It was a big box, but my eyes were glued to the parachute; I had never seen anything so neat." The adults carried the parachute and box back to the house. Inside the box were canned goods, toys, candy and fruit. Being 6 years old at the time, Specht remembered the box as coming from "the government," with a note asking for the return of the parachute.

But an Antelope Valley Ledger-Gazette article indicates that the aerial delivery was by United Airlines and the U.S. Marine Corps, whose reservists that year in Los Angeles launched a campaign that is still going in 2010 as the Toys for Tots program. About the same time as Specht and his family were opening their Christmas box, Westside rancher Roy Barth watched another box parachute from a plane and later told the Ledger-Gazette about it.

Like the plane Specht saw, this one circled around Barth and another farmer before an object attached to a parachute was pushed out the cargo door. "When the thing finally came to earth Roy went over to it and found a package," the Ledger-Gazette reported. "Opening it carefully, he found a letter inside addressed to whoever found the package: "Merry Christmas from the United States Marine Corps in cooperation with United Airlines. Please return the parachute." Inside the box Barth found oranges, apples, fruit cake, candy, a can of coffee and other edibles, the Ledger-Gazette said.



**“LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA THROUGH TIME”
NEW AVRМ BOOK PREVIEW**

These two photos are on the cover of the AVRМ’s new book, “Lancaster, California Through Time.” Here’s a sneak preview of the details involving the history of the cover photos.

Many of you may recognize the photo of the post office on the north side of Lancaster Blvd. The post office is located immediately west of the historic Western Hotel. Lancaster’s sixth post office was constructed as part of the Federal Works Progress Administration program. It was built at a cost of \$75,000. The project was completed in 1941.



Above: John Hall Carter is watching the post office’s construction on September 28, 1940. The post office is still in use today. Photo taken by Maree Baker Carter.



Left: Lancaster post office today with John Hall Carter’s grand nephew James “Jim” Carter, son of Whitford “Whit” Carter, taken in 2017, (77 years later) standing in the same location as his great uncle. Photo taken by Karl Peterson.



1941 post office dedication on left and 41 years later in 1982. Located at Lancaster Blvd. & Cedar Ave.



Membership Application for the **Antelope Valley Rural Museum**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

2018 Annual Dues \$20/person _____

Special Interest as a volunteer? _____

Tax deductible Donation \$ _____

Bronze = \$100 Silver = \$1,000 Gold = \$10,000

Please make checks payable to: AV Rural Museum

Mail to: AVR M P.O. Box 1316, Lancaster, CA 93584

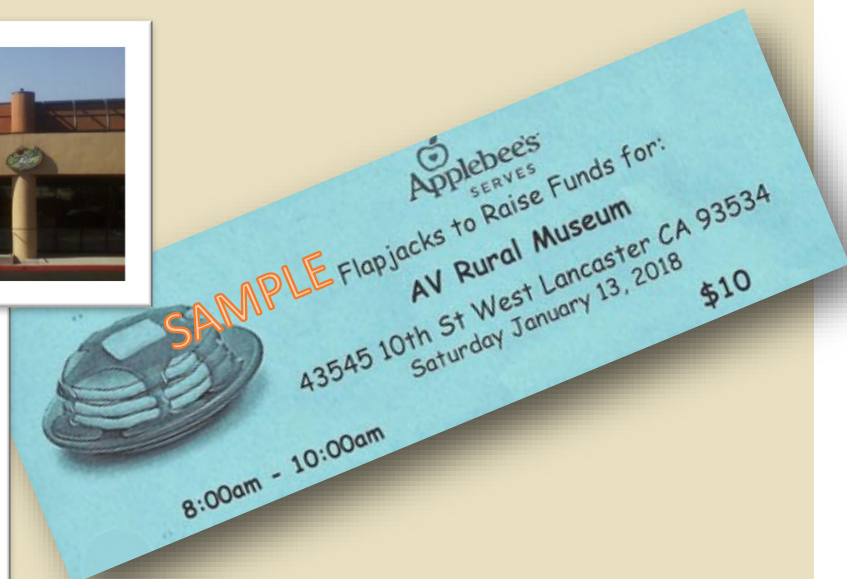


Donate and pay dues via PayPal on our website: www.avmuseum.org

APPLEBEE'S AVR M "FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER" SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2018

Applebee's restaurant is known for supporting their local communities in many different ways. The Flapjack Fundraiser is a delicious and fun way to start your weekend while helping raise funds for the AV Rural Museum! Please contact us at (661) 478-4841 for tickets or contact any of the AVR M Board members.

The Applebee's in LANCASTER at 43545 10th St. West is where the fundraiser will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. You will be served a scrumptious *all you can eat* breakfast at Applebee's for just \$10 and it will be served with a smile by your AVR M Board members!

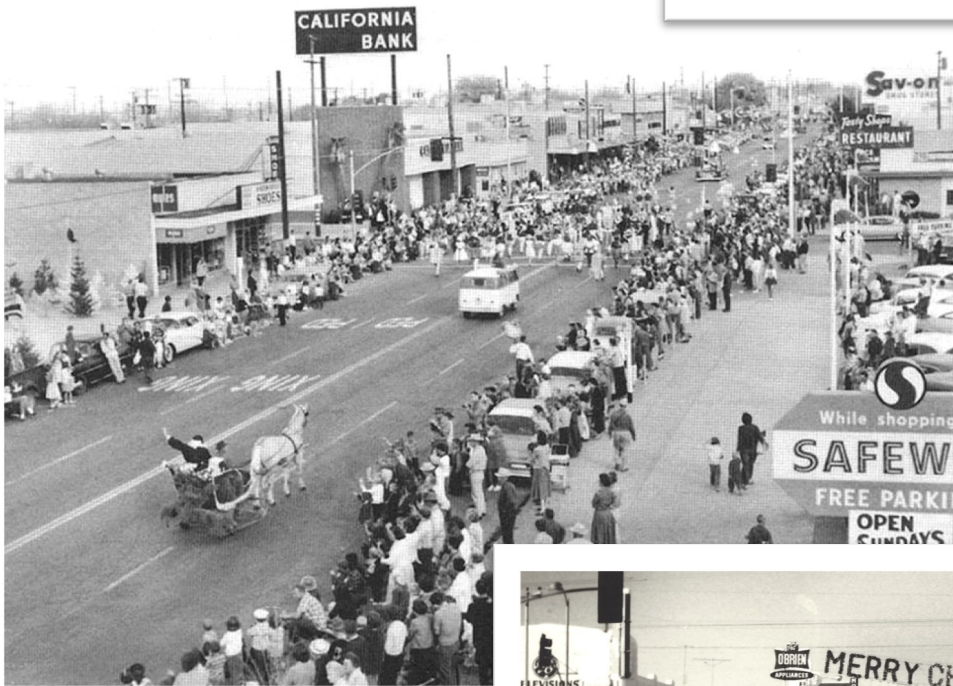




Photos donated by Walt Primmer. On back of photo, left: "10th St. looking east—starting middle of block, Cedar—Beech about 1940." And below: "1939 or 40, 10th St. looking east, Beech to Sierra Highway along 10th (now Lancaster Blvd.)" Photos taken by Clyde Primmer.



CHRISTMAS IN LANCASTER



Left: Probably taken by photographer Frank Stubbings. Lancaster Christmas parade around 1959—1960. Photo from Earl Specht.

Right: Stubbings Studio photo - postcard taken from Sierra Highway railroad tracks, looking west. Dated 1976 but may not be correct...



Website: www.avmuseum.org

[www.facebook.com/Antelope Valley Rural Museum](http://www.facebook.com/AntelopeValleyRuralMuseum)

Mailing address:

AVRM
P.O. Box 1316
Lancaster, CA 93584



Contact us:
avmuseum@verizon.net

Donate and pay dues via PayPal on our website

DONATIONS

Pickus Challenge 2017 Building Fund	\$1,000
Honor the Past Plaques and Display Sponsorship (Custom laser cut wood plaques with Personal memorial or message)	\$1,500
Bronze Sponsorship Donor	\$100
Silver Sponsorship Donor	\$1000
Gold Sponsorship Donor	\$10,000

ANTELOPE VALLEY RURAL MUSEUM GIFT STORE

Annual membership dues	\$20.00
Hats—all baseball hats (Members)	\$10.00
Hats—all baseball hats (Non-members)	\$15.00
NEW! Lancaster, CA Through Time	\$25.00
History books—all books are priced at:	
Images of America “Lancaster”	\$20.00
Images of America “Palmdale”	
Legendary Locals of the AV (Above AV history books signed by Norma Gurba)	
P-38 Lightning	
Images of America “Edwards Air Force Base”	
DVDs Listed DVDs are priced at:	\$20.00
Jane Pinheiro Wildflowers NEW!	
Yester Years—AV History 1876—1942	
1987 Rural Olympics (narrated)	
Evolution of the Rural Olympics book (On DVD—Excel & Word Doc format)	

The AVRM is a 501(c)(3) public charity
EIN: 27-1002922

Antelope Valley Rural Museum
P.O. Box 1316
Lancaster, CA 93584