



Volume 2, No. 1

Antelope Valley Rural Museum

MARCH 2018

AVRM EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

Chairman

Giovanni Simi

Vice-Chairman

David Pickus

Finance Officer/Membership

Bill Rawlings

Secretary

Ruth Godde

DIRECTORS

Dayle DeBry—Military & Aviation
Newsletter Editor

Lynn DuPratt—Public Relations

Jeff Godde—Agricultural Equipment

John Knapp—Vehicle Mechanics

Luci Pickus—Volunteer Coordinator

Brandy Royce—Curator & Librarian

Sheila Sola—Timeline Displays

Barbara Sterk—Farm & Garden

Jerry Sterk—Ag. & Dairy Research

David Williams—Vehicle Mechanics

Kristi Word—Student Field Trips

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AVRM Officers & Chairman’s Message	1
Bill Rawlings & Upcoming Events/Meetings	2-3
129 Years Ago and Quartz Hill Almond Blossom Festival	3-4
AVRM News: New book and Flapjack Fundraiser	5
Eunice Hilgendorf—She Has a Way With Almonds	6
Membership Application & 1955 Oliver Skip Loader For Sale	7
AVRM Gift Store & Information	8

CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE



As we move into the 2018 year we can look back on 2017 as being a very productive year. We have met the commitment of \$250,000.00 for the new building on the fairgrounds thanks to the hard work of our Board and volunteers. Four of our members have spent an incredible amount of time putting together the book, “Lancaster, California Through Time,” and the book has been published. This was done by Norma Gurba, Karl Peterson, Dayle DeBry and Bill Rawlings, and is a pictorial essay of Lancaster as it was, and what is now, showing

the community as it developed into what we see today. The book is on sale at the Museum and businesses around the Antelope Valley.

We had an extremely successful fund raising dinner with a full house of people and an evening of great fellowship and fun. Thank you to all of you who attended and donated to the raffle and auction and we plan to make our dinner even more special in 2018 with the groundbreaking ceremony for the new building. We met with Fair management and staff, along with engineering and construction companies, to determine the plans and requirements for the building to be ready to proceed after the 2018 Fair.

The museum is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and by appointment through the website. We continue to have more and more visitors and all have been very complimentary about the displays. We need to get the word out that the Museum is a great place to visit. Please let your friends know about the AVRM and come by to visit. The conversations heard are providing more history for the Museum. 2018 looks to be an even greater year for the museum. Away we go!

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 2018, FOR OUR FUNDRAISING DINNER!



RAWLINGS' REVIEW

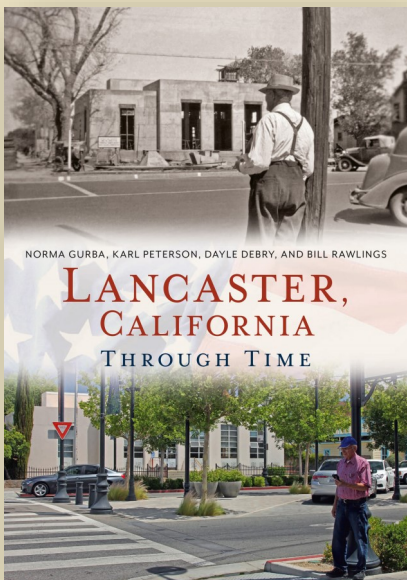
I am so proud of our volunteers, with over 27,000 hours invested in creating and managing our Museum. I am also grateful to our many donors for answering our call to raise \$250,000 for our share of the funds needed to build

Phase 1 of our new home! I will soon be signing an agreement with Barry Munz of AV Engineering to create our building plans. Groundbreaking and construction are scheduled to begin shortly after this year's Fair, with a projected completion date of May 31, 2019.

Fundraising cannot stop just because we reached a milestone goal. We still must continue to raise money for our expenses such as insurance, licenses and utilities, as well as to insure continued growth. But even more importantly—and this is a long shot—we could save a great deal of money in the long run if we could build Phase 2 along with the initial construction. So let's start now!

The **2018 \$1,000 Pickus Challenge** is in full swing. Once again, the Clean Sweep Broom decorating contest will be held with brooms available beginning at the **Home Show** held **March 16, 17 and 18th**. Sales will continue at the Museum and during the **May 6, Lancaster Flea Market**.

Also available at both events will be our new book, "**Lancaster, California Through Time**" and the colorful **Plate Flowers** for your garden. These are great gifts just in time for Easter.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2018—2019

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

MARCH 16—18: Join us at the Home Show at the Fairgrounds.

MARCH 17: Museum open the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00—2:00 p.m. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

APRIL 7: Board meeting the 1st Saturday of the month and the Museum is open from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

APRIL 11: L.A. Co. Farm Bureau Kid's Ag Day, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

APRIL 21: Museum open the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00—2:00 p.m.

MAY 5: Board meeting the 1st Saturday of the month and the Museum is open from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

MAY 6, Sunday: AVRМ booth at the Lancaster Flea Market, AV Fairgrounds.

MAY 19: Museum open the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00—2:00 p.m.



Above: "Clean Sweep Brooms" available at the Home Show for decorating and entry in the Fair. Below: Beautiful "Plate Flowers" made by Pam Rawlings also available at the Home Show.



RAWLINGS' REVIEW, Continued

Don't forget to donate your sellable Flea Market items to the AVR. Come and see some of the great items in our large AVR trailer next to the Museum. All proceeds benefit the AVR Building Fund.

It's still **Membership Renewal** time! Please keep in mind the importance of these dues to maintain projects other than our new building. \$20 per person, per year, is a very affordable way to be part of something special! Come to the Museum or any of the mentioned events to renew in person, or mail to our P.O. Box. You may also renew on the website as well as donate, purchase books, and pay memberships using PayPal or a credit card. Now, for the first time on our website, you may offer a monthly donation with your credit card!

Watch for a feature story about the Antelope Valley Rural Museum in the **AVentures Magazine** available the first week in March at Destination Lancaster, CA. "AVentures Magazine is the official publication of Destination Lancaster and highlights all the unique attractions, special events and experiences you can only find throughout the Antelope Valley."



129 YEARS AGO IN PALMDALE

MARCH 14, 1889

Los Angeles Herald Newspaper

PALMDALE NEWS

Everybody is busy at Palmdale planting orchards and vineyards. Peter Jones is putting about thirteen acres in muscat vines for raisins, and a number of others from five to ten acres. This will, in a few years, be the leading raisin country in Los Angeles county. We have the soil and climate for raisins.

Some San Bernardino parties are clearing off the land near Big Rock Creek to put out 1,000 acres in a body to the raisin grape next season. Several parties have arrived from the East during the last week to make their homes in Palmdale, among them the Rathke brothers of Yankton, Dak. There are now

four of the brothers at Palmdale and more to come. Mr. N. Mehmeke of Keokuk county, Iowa, also thinks of investing. Mr. Thomas Getham of North Cucamonga, paid us a visit a few days ago and believes that we have a great future, especially as far as grape culture is concerned. He said our soil had no superior in that line.

Dr. Peckham, of Los Angeles, is to build a fine sanitarium on the foothills three miles southeast of Palmdale. Some of the building material is already on the ground.

Our young apricot, peach and almond trees set out two years ago are in full bloom. Our vines have also begun to bud. We will have some fruit and raisins to show this season to prove what the valley can produce. The population has doubled in the valley last year.

The best land here can yet be had at \$25 per acre, from one and a half to three miles from town, with water rights at the purchasers' own terms, but it will be sold to actual settlers only. Boomers we do not want.

QUARTZ HILL ALMOND BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

In early 1950, Jane Pinheiro and Byron Glenn observed the almond trees coming into bloom, and they decided that Quartz Hill should have a festival at almond blossom time. The suggestion was taken to the Chamber of Commerce and the Almond Blossom Festival was instituted. A queen was chosen, a parade planned and the first festival got underway. It has been an annual event ever since and draws an audience from 2,000 to 3,000 people. (History from the Quartz Hill Chamber of Commerce website).

The 2018 festival will take place Friday March 11, through Sunday, March 13th.

ANTELOPE VALLEY TO FETE ALMOND INDUSTRY SUNDAY

Los Angeles Times Newspaper

March 1, 1950

Quartz Hill, Feb. 28—Never have the Antelope Valley's famed almond blossoms received such a welcome as that planned by this desert community for Sunday. It will be the first annual Almond

Festival. Against a background of 100,000 almond trees bursting into bloom, residents will pay tribute to almond growers as a principal local industry.

Included will be a newly opened phase of almond production and marketing, the local production of candied almonds, intended to absorb an important part of the 700,000 pound harvest here.

The spring blossoming of the Antelope Valley almond orchards against a backdrop of mountains and desert for years has brought thousands of motorists. This year the trees have been loaded with extra buds, expected to reach peak bloom this weekend to do their part in the first festival of Quartz Hill, known as the almond capital of the valley.

The festival will open Saturday night with a dance at the Quartz Hill Airport hangar. Under a full moon, the Antelope Valley Flying Club will provide night sight-seeing flights over the blossoming groves.

Jean Eastman will be crowned as almond blossom queen and her attendants, Thurza Millar, Dolores Meir, Betty Firsick, Ruth Cheshire and Joan Parsons will be presented.

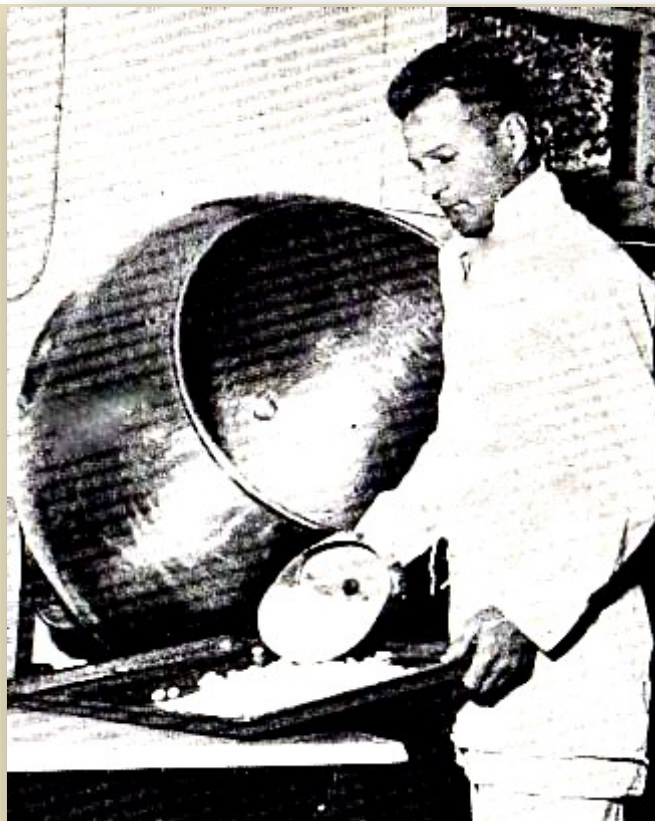
Highlight of the Sunday Festival program will be a parade at noon with William Stratman, 90-year-old early settler of the valley, as grand marshal.

Valley fliers will host a fly-in breakfast Sunday morning and there will be a horse show in the afternoon.

Candied almonds, nuts grown, shelled and processed locally, are a new development of the industry here and are now being turned out at a rate of 300 pounds daily. Equipment used was developed here for this specific purpose.



DELICACY—Milton Feder, Quartz Hill almond grower, offers candied nuts to Almond Queen Jean Eastman.



Gael Donald Raven (above), was co-owner of Rancho Raviri almonds in Quartz Hill. Donald was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and is interred at AV Cemetery District/Lancaster Cemetery. He was born April 18, 1920 and passed away Sept. 18, 2004.

Copyright 1988 by Pat Reynolds

Shopping in the Village

with Pat Reynolds

The perfect business gifts at **RANCHO RAVIRI**. These would be the famous Mission Pack quality line called "Mr. California." All Mission Pack gifts travel well and **RANCHO RAVIRI** takes care of the shipping details for you. Not much need to elaborate on these famed delectables except to say that the price range takes care of everyone from Office Boy to Chairman of The Board, (and secretaries love them!)



4646 W. Ave. M-8 in Quartz Hill.

“LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA THROUGH TIME”

Book Signing at the AVRМ Held January 6, 2018

An enthusiastic crowd attended the official launch and signing of the new AVRМ book, “Lancaster, California Through Time.” Norma Gurba presented a history of Lancaster and the book authors gave a brief profile of themselves during a break in the presentation.

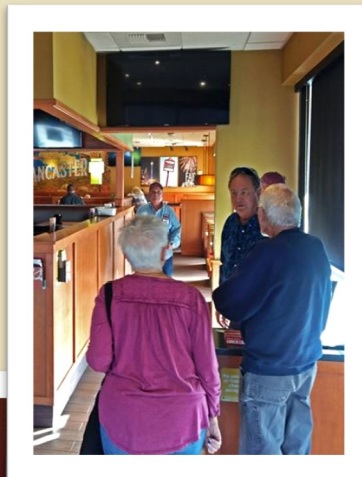
Photo at right features the four AVRМ members who worked on the book. From left to right: Bill Rawlings, Karl Peterson, Dayle DeBry and Norma Gurba.

The book is available at the Museum, Antelope Valley Florist, Lancaster Cemetery, and through the AVRМ website at <http://www.avmuseum.org/>. Cost is \$25 per copy, which includes tax.



FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER AT APPLEBEE’S

Our first “Flapjack Fundraiser” was held at the Lancaster Applebee’s on January 13, 2018, with several of the AVRМ directors serving the breakfast to a hungry crowd. Funds raised from the breakfast will be used for our building fund for our new, larger Museum building. Groundbreaking for the building is scheduled this year, after the close of the AV Fair in August.



1. Applebee’s in Lancaster
2. A hungry group with Jerry Sterk, Steve Sterk, G Simi, Janine Simi, Sheila and Carlos Sola.
3. Chairman Simi greeting the crowd.
4. Karl and Jayne Peterson.



The following article was printed in the California Farmer magazine on October 25, 1958 in the Homecraft section, highlighting the cooking skills of Eunice Hilgendorf, long-time resident of Quartz Hill, and wife of John Hilgendorf. The original Hilgendorf families moved to the Del Sur area around 1919.

SHE HAS A WAY WITH ALMONDS



1958—Mrs. Eunice Hilgendorf prefers roasted almonds for use in most of her excellent recipes. Here she is shown slipping a pan of home-grown almonds into the oven for slow roasting.

What better place to go in search of unusual and delicious recipes using almonds than to the Quartz Hill area in Antelope Valley and right into a home that nestles in the midst of an almond orchard? (A charming house embraced in the arms of an ancient almond tree.)

Although the John Hilgendorf's don't raise almonds on a large scale (Mr. Hilgendorf's business in town takes up most of his time), Eunice Hilgendorf enjoys the reputation of having some of the tastiest ways with almonds to be found in the locale. "Almonds make the dish," she says. And you have to agree when you taste her Almond Pie, Almond Carrot Salad or Almond Toffee.

"You really don't need any special recipes for using almonds," she adds, "just give your imagination free rein and toss them into everything from a casserole of leftovers (they're a wonderful meat extender) to a sumptuous company dessert. They're so delicious and so versatile that they turn any dish into a delicious specialty."

her "easy-do" method of roasting: Place shelled almonds on a large cookie sheet (one with slightly built-up sides). Melt 1/4 cup butter (or margarine), spoon over almonds and roast for about an hour in a 250 degree (slow) oven for about an hour, stirring frequently. Salt some of them for munching, use the rest for cooking. Store in refrigerator in a container with a tight cover. We sampled some of Mrs. Hilgendorf's "Smoked Roasted" almonds, which are very special! Their preparation is her secret, but their goodness is not, for every year at holiday time orders from all over the country come pouring in.

Mrs. Hilgendorf prefers to use roasted almonds in most recipes...they're much more flavorful, she says, and after roasting can be crushed with a rolling pin, which eliminates the more laborious task of chopping. This is

Eunice Hilgendorf's Almond Toffee

Ingredients: 1/2 pound butter or margarine; 1-1/2 cups beet sugar; Pinch of salt; 6 ounces sweet (or semi-sweet) chocolate; 1 cup chopped, roasted almonds.

Melt butter in a heavy skillet over very low heat. Add sugar, stirring constantly (to prevent sugaring) until mixture reaches boiling point. Boil over moderate heat, stirring frequently, for about 12 minutes, to hard-crack stage (when a little dropped into cold water becomes hard and brittle) or 300 degrees F. on a candy thermometer. Add 2/3 cup chopped almonds. Spread quickly into a 9 x 13 inch pan. Shave chocolate and sprinkle over top of candy. When heat has melted chocolate, smooth with spatula. Sprinkle remaining almonds over chocolate. Allow to stand until cold. Break into bite-size pieces. Makes about 1 1/2 pounds.



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: AVRM P.O. Box 1316, Lancaster, CA 93584

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



Everyone needs a skip loader for Spring cleaning on your property!
Contact us for details.

**FOR SALE - 1955 OLIVER SKIP LOADER
WITH REAR BLADE - RUNS GOOD!**

Donated by Debby Swapp
to raise money for the AVRM
Building Fund

\$5,000 O.B.O.
DRIVER NOT INCLUDED

The AVRM is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity
EIN: 27-1002922

Website: www.avmuseum.org
[www.facebook.com/Antelope Valley Rural Museum](https://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 and credit card on our website

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

DONATIONS

Pickus Challenge 2018 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
P.O. Box 1316
Lancaster, CA 93584