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SPECIAL 2019 FAIR EDITION

Wow, the Fair is almost here and this year has gone by so fast! The Kickoff dinner was held and our CFO, Bill Rawlings, was awarded the Volunteer of the Year for 2019. It was an honor well deserved for all of his volunteer hours at the Fair and Museum.

This month has been the best Christmas in July ever as we have been notified of a \$100,000.00 check from our County Supervisor's (Katherine Barger) Office, and a \$100,000.00 check from the City of Lancaster Mayor's Office (Rex Parris). These checks will be presented during the groundbreaking at the Rural Olympics. Speaking of groundbreaking, the building pad has been excavated, filled and compacted by California Compaction and they made quick work of it with their heavy equipment. What a great job they did! This means that the building will start as soon as the ground is cleared after the Fair. A big "Woo-hoo" here!

Come in and see us at the Fair and please come to the Rural Olympics to support the Groundbreaking. There will be fireworks afterward!

G. Simi, Chairman

Better late than never! Bill Rawlings presented G. Simi with the 2018 AVRM Volunteer of the Year award at our last Board meeting on July 6, 2019. G was the Volunteer of the Year for AVRM, and was also nominated by the AVRM for the AV Fair Volunteer of the year which he was awarded with at last year's kick-off dinner.

We have such an amazing, talented group of volunteer officers and directors at the Antelope Valley Rural Museum! Everyone works hard and does a fantastic job in everything they do. This is a great accomplishment to finally realize we will have a brand new building very soon!

Thank you to all of our donors for your contributions—volunteer time, monetary donations and contributions of historical items. We couldn't have done it without you, our members and the support of the AV Fair Association, Friends of the Fair, and the Rural Olympics Hall of Fame!



THE ANTELOPE VALLEY RURAL MUSEUM

is proud to announce the groundbreaking ceremony and construction of our new building on the AV Fairgrounds!

CONSTRUCTION of our new 12,000 square foot building will begin after this year's Fair. This will double the size of our current location and includes plans for a future Phase Two 6,000 SF addition.

CELEBRATE with us all 10 days of the AV Fair in the museum & see local history spanning from Indians to Outer Space.

JOIN US for our GROUND BREAKING ceremony during the RURAL OLYMPICS on Saturday, August 24th, followed by a great FIREWORKS SHOW.

SUPPORT US at our September 28th Fundraiser Dinner. Tickets will be available in the museum and during the AV Fair and online.



Artists Rendering by Renato De Guia

Go to www.avmuseum.org for more information about the AVRVM and ways to contribute as a volunteer and donor.

A HUGE THANKS to the ANTELOPE VALLEY FAIR ASSOCIATION from the AV RURAL MUSEUM and the RURAL OLYMPICS HALL of FAME for giving us so much support, room to grow, and a permanent home since 2005, and THANKS ALSO to the FRIENDS of the FAIR for pledging \$250,000 in matching funds.



Your AVRVM Officers and Board of Directors help make everything happen! A shout-out to the Board is definitely deserved. L to R: Dayle DeBry, Military/Aviation displays and Newsletter; Jerry Sterk, Ag & Dairy Research; Ruth Godde, Secretary; Barbara Sterk, Farm & Garden; Lynn DuPratt, Public Relations; John Knapp, Vehicle Mechanics; Kristi Word, Student Field Trips; G. Simi, Chairman; Jeff Godde, Ag Equipment; Dave Pickus, Vice-President; Luci Pickus, Volunteer Coordinator; Bill Rawlings, Treasurer; and Sheila Sola, Timeline Displays. Not pictured, Brandy Royce, Curator & Librarian.

Dances Will Feature Alfalfa Festival



Antelope Valley Japanese Farmers' Association will present a group of children in colorful folk dances as a new feature of the annual Alfalfa Festival to be held Friday and Saturday by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce. The Antelope Valley fete glorifies the famous Antelope Valley alfalfa hay and is designed to bring residents together in a typical old-time California fiesta.

LANCASTER FAIR WILL OPEN FRIDAY

Two-Day Celebration Will Be Given Under Auspices of Civic Organization

LANCASTER, Sept. 30.—Colorful Japanese folk dances provided by the Antelope Valley Japanese Farmers' Association will be a new feature of the Alfalfa Festival here on the evening of the first day of that event, set for next Friday.

The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce is announcing the fourth annual presentation of the Alfalfa Festival to be held on October 5 and 6. In addition to the entertainment which the Japanese citizens of the valley are providing, a full two-day program of high-class vaudeville also is being arranged.

The Alfalfa Festival is a two-day celebration combined with a community fair which glorifies the famous Antelope Valley alfalfa hay and brings the community and its friends together for a typical California fiesta.

Sheriff Biscailuz is expected to lead the opening parade and County Supervisor Roger Jessup will formally open the festivities. A monster monument of alfalfa hay is one of the decorations for the occasion. Overalls and red bandanas are the official costume.

Above: 1934 Alfalfa Festival article from the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

Photo below from Tom Shiokari (now deceased), colored by Earl Specht for a 2008 ceremony at Lancaster Cemetery in honor of the Japanese farmers.



LANCASTER DOLLS UP FOR FETE

Alfalfa Festival Will Open Tomorrow



Girls Catch Spirit of Fiesta

1932 Alfalfa Festival
Los Angeles Times Newspaper

LANCASTER, Oct. 5.—Lancaster high school girls already are giving a good demonstration of the official festival costume in preparation for the Antelope Valley's second annual Alfalfa Festival here Friday and Saturday. Overalls, red bandanas and ten-gallon hats are already adding color to activity. Before Friday the streets will be transformed with alfalfa decorations and gold and green colors.

A parade Friday morning led by the Antelope Valley Band will open the two-day celebration. County Supervisor Henry W. Wright will aid in the formal opening. Three free street shows featuring vaudeville and circus acts will be given daily with a complete change of program each day. A free street dance is scheduled Friday night.

1935 Alfalfa Festival Parade
Los Angeles Times Newspaper

Alfalfa Festival Parade Today



These Lancaster girls posed yesterday on a wagonload of alfalfa in preparation for Lancaster's annual Alfalfa Festival to be held today and tomorrow. A parade will start at 10:30 a.m. today. The Burbank band has been added to the list of attractions, according to Paul Hubbard and R. C. Hitte. The girls are, top, Lucille Crawford and below, left to right, Doris Bubeck, Louise Pyle and Dorothea Leopold.

September 10, 1950
Antelope Valley Fair
Los Angeles Times Newspaper

Hay-loading Record Set at Antelope Valley Fair

LANCASTER, Sept. 10—There was a new record in the books today for the hay-loading championship contest.

The new champion's, two brothers, Glen and George Losey of Lancaster, won the title event against four other teams in 8m. 47.5s. The previous best time, set last year, was 9m. 23s. Contestants load 64 bales of alfalfa, haul it a quarter of a mile and unload and stack it as originally stacked.

The contest each year is the

climax of the Rural Olympics at the Antelope Valley Fair and Alfalfa Festival here.

In another of the contests, Don Paget won the tractor race, his machine negotiating the three-quarters of a mile in 1m. 13.4s.

At the close of the fair today officials announced attendance had been 39,400, about 5000 over last year's figures.

The program today included the quarter-horse races this afternoon and a show and fireworks display tonight.



Undated Rural Olympics photo taken by Frank Stubbings. Barbara Jones (now Sterk) with Miss Boron, Hazel Kostopoulous Logan.



Fred Valentino—muleskinner—collected garbage at the AV FAIR with his “mule powered” wagon.



November 1941, Los Angeles Times newspaper photo.
Lancaster Junior Woman's Club.

Website: www.avmuseum.org
[www.facebook.com/Antelope Valley Rural Museum](https://www.facebook.com/AntelopeValleyRuralMuseum)

Mailing address:

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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
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”	
Arcadia California Dreamin’ Route 66	
John W. Searles: CA Mining Pioneer	\$27.00
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 2019 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

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P.O. Box 1316
Lancaster, CA 93584

SPECIAL EDITION!

