



Volume 3, No. 5

Antelope Valley Rural Museum

DEC 2019

**AVRM EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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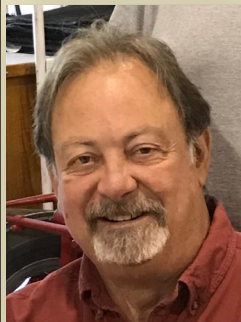
Kristi Word—Student Field Trips

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**CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE**

**Giovanni “G” Simi**



Wow! The Thanksgiving & Christmas season is upon us with decorations starting to pop-up and plans being made for a wonderful Holiday season. Please remember our armed forces serving around the world to make our Holiday season safer, and remember our Veterans who have preserved our freedoms for us to enjoy.

I had the honor of visiting the Antelope Valley Mobile wall at the Marie Kerr Park Amphitheater last weekend and talked to several Veterans as we were observing the wall and going in the various tents. This Wall is something to be very proud of as it was funded by various organizations and schools here in the Valley, finally welcoming home the Vietnam era veterans. Also, please remember Veterans by helping with Wreaths Across America. The cost is \$15.00 per wreath and you may contact our own Dayle DeBry at the Lancaster Cemetery.

Now, on to the Museum and the start of construction. The steel for the building has been ordered and is expected to arrive before the end of the year, or in construction terms, next year. With that, the foundation work will begin, the plumbing and electrical trenches dug, footings dug, and concrete poured. Then the steel arrives and the block walls will be built and the steel erected. Let’s hope for a very mild winter so all of the work gets done without any weather delays.

Then the work really begins, THE MOVE. We already realize that the new building is too small, so we will continue fundraising and hopefully be able to start the second phase soon. All of this growth is wonderful and can be attributed to the dedication of the board and all of you wonderful volunteers.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

Speaking of the Board, it has been my honor to work with such a dedicated group of people that can work together towards the common goal. Egos fall behind at the door and everything gets done. Wow, maybe there are a few boards around the Valley that could take note, including some in our state and national capital.

Have a Great Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Your Chairman, Giovanni “G” Simi

### **RAWLINGS’ REVIEW**



**Thank You!** for making 2019 another special and productive year. Our museum continues to grow thanks to our generous donors and unselfish volunteers.

#### **Steel Building Has Been Ordered!**

Toneman Development Corporation has ordered the Pre-Engineered

Metal Building which will be delivered by mid-March 2020. In the meantime, the underground utilities, foundation and masonry will be underway. Our museum will be built by Fair time this year.

**Volunteers...Stay Tuned!** During construction we will be furnishing the labor for the interior carpentry and several finishes in order to save money. If you have skills you can offer, please contact me. Before you know it, we will be packing up and moving. This will be a labor of love, and even though we are only moving a few hundred yards, it will also be a monumental task. We need all hands on deck!

**Third Annual Flapjack Fundraiser:** Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. will be our Third Annual *Flapjack Fundraiser* at the Lancaster Applebee’s. Tickets are now available through any Board Member or by calling me at 661-478-4841. \$10 buys a breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, potatoes, orange juice and coffee. The museum makes \$5 per ticket sold. This has been a fun gathering in the past.

**It Is Membership Renewal** time. Only \$20 per person, per year, helps the museum with costs of operation such as insurances, license fees, and maintenance. Pay in person at the *Flapjack Fundraiser*, mail to our P.O. Box, or renew on our website. Need a yearend tax write off? You may also donate, purchase

### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2019—2020**

DECEMBER 7: Museum CLOSED.

DECEMBER 21: Museum open Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

JANUARY 4, 2020: Board meeting 10:00 a.m. Museum open Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

JANUARY 18, 2020: 3rd Annual FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER at APPLEBEE’S in Lancaster. 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. See page 3 for details.

FEBRUARY 1: Board meeting 10:00 a.m. Museum open Saturday, 10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 15: Museum open Saturday, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

MARCH 7: Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. Museum open 10:00—2:00 p.m.

MARCH 21: Museum open 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

books, and pay memberships using *PayPal* or by using your credit card. You may even offer a monthly donation with your credit card on our website.

#### **Holiday Shopping**

Many of you will be buying gifts and other goodies online this season. I hope you will consider going to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choosing *Antelope Valley Rural Museum of History* as your charity. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates a portion of your purchase price to your favorite charity. It will cost you nothing but a couple of minutes of your time.

**Here’s to a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Bill Rawlings – Finance Officer



#### **STOCKING STUFFER IDEAS!**

- \*AVRM membership
- \*AVRM Books
- \*AVRM DVDs
- \*Tickets—Flapjack Fundraiser
- \*A journal of your family history
- \*Historical photos mini album





Applebee's  
SERVES

Flapjacks to Raise Funds for:  
AV Rural Museum  
43545 10th St West Lancaster CA 93534  
Saturday January 18, 2020

\$10



8:00am - 10:00am



## 2020 FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER

Be sure and join us for our 3rd Annual Flapjack Fundraiser on Saturday, January 18, 2020, from 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. at the Lancaster APPLEBEE'S. Tickets will be available through any AVRМ Board member or by calling Bill Rawlings at (661) 478-4841. \$10 buys you a tasty breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, potatoes, orange juice and coffee. The Museum makes \$5 per ticket sold. See you there!



## Memories from the 2019 Flapjack Fundraiser







**LOS ANGELES TIMES**  
**December 16, 1959**

“All I want for Christmas is...” Debbie McCaleb, 6, of Lancaster, Christmas princess in the Lancaster Yule Parade, explains to Santa Claus that she would appreciate two front teeth for Christmas. Debbie was pet parade queen for Lancaster Junior Chamber of Commerce in September, but in the meantime her two top front teeth disappeared.

*(Guess who is Santa Claus? See next page at the top for the answer)*



**LOS ANGELES TIMES**

**December 23, 1919**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

Miss Rebecca Ditman entertained her pupils and their parents at the Del Sur schoolhouse. The scene of the evening’s festivities was beautifully decorated, while a large Christmas tree covered with ornaments added much to the charming scene. The manner in which the large number of guests were entertained left nothing to be desired.



*Del Sur School, November 1922. Photo taken by Emma Dunham, courtesy of Mickey Primmer.*



Winter time, 1916. Antelope Valley pioneer Tony Godde holding baby Forrest Godde. Photo submitted by Barbara (Shumake) Godde.





Answer to "Who is Santa Claus" on previous page: Vern Lawson, former managing editor of the Antelope Valley Press!

The following poem (undated) about the stately Joshua tree was written by Lancaster resident Irene Katherine (Nybakken) Englund.

**DESERT ROYALTY**

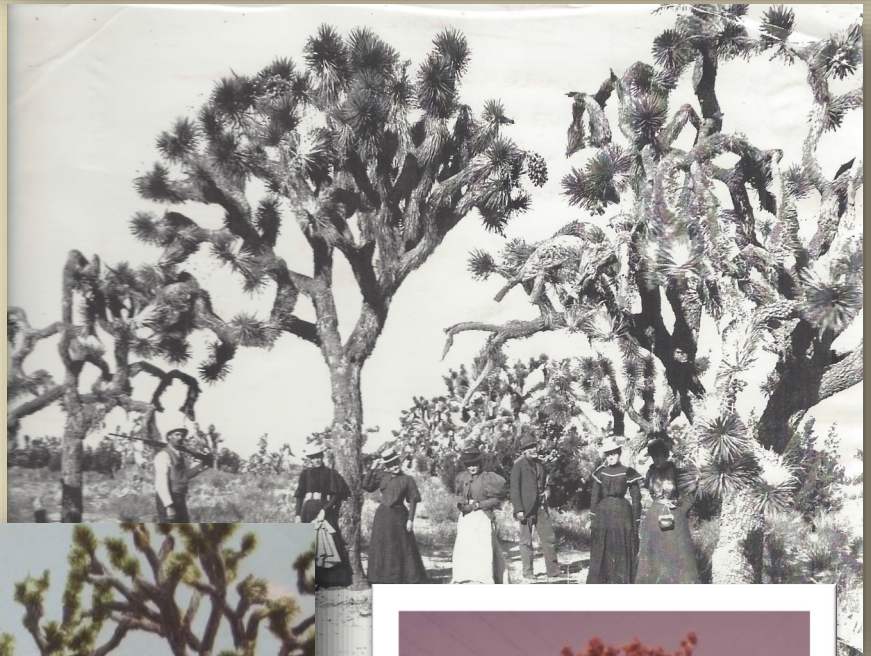
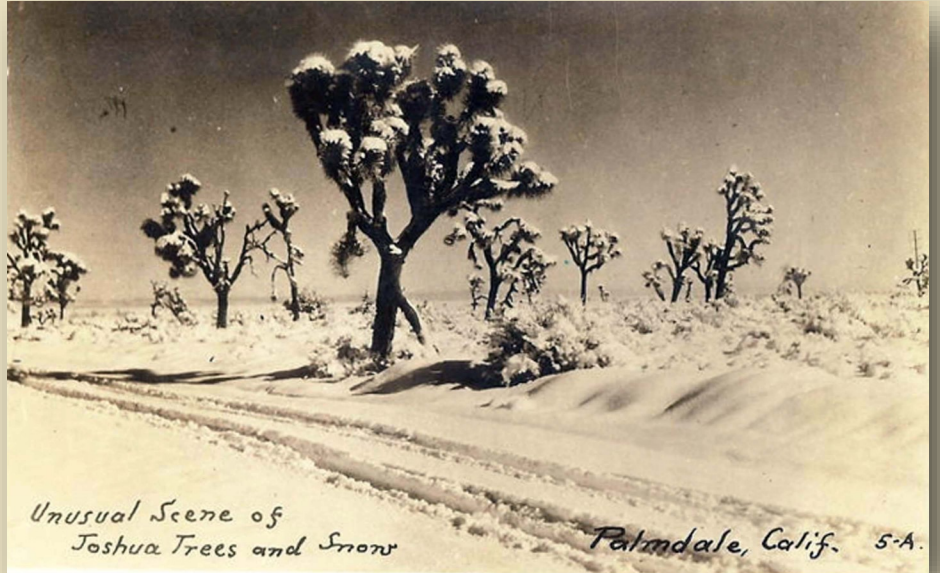
The king of the desert,  
So fearlessly stands,  
Greeting the trav'ler  
With outstretched hands.

He weathers each storm  
With an outward calm.  
This Joshua King  
Knows no fear or qualm.

The Queen of the desert,  
In regal array,  
Decks herself proudly -  
She reigns during May.

Queen Yucca is stately,  
Majestic, serene.  
Surrounding her feet  
Are daggers of green.

These royal clad monarchs  
Hold court in our land.  
Their throne, the hillside;  
Their kingdom, the sand.





## QUARTZ HILL'S MILLION DOLLAR BEGINNINGS

Story and photos provided by Carol Stephens

Edwin Tobias Earl was born May 30, 1858, on his family's fruit ranch in Red Bluff, CA. At the age of 18, he went into the business of shipping fruit, and is credited with inventing the first ventilated-refrigerated boxcar for shipping fruit in 1890, opening the markets back East to the delights of California fruit, and also making him a millionaire in the process. After "retiring" he became publisher of two L.A. newspapers, he became involved in Los Angeles politics, and he invested in Southern California real estate, including Antelope Valley.

In 1912 or 1913, Edwin and his brother Guy Chaffee Earl, purchased over 1200-acres of land in the Antelope Valley, most of which was located in the West Valley. They went to work planting pear and apricot trees in the Belleview District, which we now know as Quartz Hill. Edwin constructed a large ranch house on a plot of land below what would later be Ave. M and 47<sup>th</sup> St. West. Guy Earl had a modest home on 60<sup>th</sup> St West near Ave. L, on property that is now the Lane Ranch.

Over the next few years, improvements were made to what *The Los Angeles Times* mockingly called "Earlmount Colony" or "Earldom." Wells were dug; curbs, gutters, catch basins and culverts were added; new buildings went up and more acres were planted to fruit trees. In 1917, Earl and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Emily Jarvis-Earl, 14 years his junior, along with other residents, deeded some of their land to the county for the purpose of a road leading from Sierra Highway, then known as Mint Canyon Highway, to 50<sup>th</sup> St. West, and they named it Quartz Hill Road.

Late 1918, E. T. Earl became very ill over the Christmas holidays, and on January 2, 1919, he succumbed to tuberculosis. Almost immediately, his heirs began selling much of the vast Earl properties throughout the Southland, but his widow retained the Quartz Hill properties for the remainder of her life.

I was tickled to find a family connection to Mrs. E.T. Earl. On Feb. 27, 1920, society matron Mrs. Albert S. Hoyt held her usual morning musicale at the Alexandria Hotel in Los Angeles, and my great grandmother, Catherine Bayne-Stephens, Catherine's sister-in-law, Minnie Allen, and Mrs. Earl all assisted with the affair!

Two years after the death of Edwin T. Earl, Emily married William E. Fowler, and for a time the ranch was known as the Fowler estate. She passed away in 1925, leaving her holdings to her four children. They sold the Quartz Hill ranch in 1927 to the Harold G. Ferguson Company for a reported \$1,000,000, and in Feb. 1928, the Ferguson Company announced the subdivision of the Earl ranch property into 5-10 acre ranches that they named Palm Ranch for the Palm Ranch Syndicate in Los Angeles. A domestic water supply was added, and a number of orchards were seeded to alfalfa. Poultry operations were started with a 30,000-turkey capacity, and an apricot drying yard and shed was also added. The great ranch covered 2,000 acres in Quartz Hill at its peak in the late 1920s.



**PALM RANCH**

There is no scarcity of water for Palm Ranch's full-bearing Pear, Almond and Apricot trees. Every orchard is under irrigation.

**Apricots! Now for Almonds and Pears**

These are busy, happy days at Palm Ranch. The early buyers at this intensive fruit and turkey community of the West Antelope Valley are checking out a bumper apricot crop. Their big immediate income has started. You should inspect this famous E. T. Earl property at once. Next will come the pear and almond harvest with more profit for those who DO NOT DELAY. We will care for, pick and market your crop or aid in financing your Palm Ranch income-producing country home.

**HAROLD G. FERGUSON CORPORATION**  
7th Floor, Great Republic Life Bldg.  
750 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, Cal.  
Phone TR July 2804

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_

INVESTIGATE OUR PLAN AT ONCE  
COME IN OR MAIL ATTACHED COUPON

The lots were advertised as an investment where the buyer could get immediate returns with 12-year-old fruit trees ready to bear tasty fruit as well as growing almonds and raising plump turkey-gobblers. Prospective buyers were treated to an elaborate meal at the Earl ranch house as an added enticement. Unfortunately for Mr. Ferguson, in 1931 he was arrested, tried and convicted on charges of securities fraud. The millionaire-developer was sentenced to 5-50 years at San Quentin in 1932, where he served three years of his sentence working as a janitor in the prison at one time. In 1935, he was paroled, and at the end of 1938, he was pardoned, but it was too late for his Palm Ranch real estate investment.

In 1932, the Earl family bought back the Earl property from the failed Ferguson Corp. and sold it again to Earl Ranch Ltd. It was reported that the ranch had been neglected for two years and was not the fine place it used to be. About this time, a pear blight

*Los Angeles Times, June 24, 1928.*



Mrs. Emily M. Jarvis-  
Earl-Fowler.  
L.A. Times, Oct. 1925

which had been hard-fought throughout the southwest part of the state, took its toll on the orchards around the ranch. Money and effort was put into stopping the disease, but eventually the trees lost the fight and were removed.

On May 1, 1937, a community post office, called a rural station, was established at the Earl ranch house. It was named "Earl Rural Station." Rural stations were run by private businesses, serving small communities, and they were typically located in places of business, operated by persons not in the classified service. Storekeepers bid for annual contracts and received a lump sum to provide space and the services of a clerk who would sell money orders, register letters, and receive letters and parcels for mailing, but they did not deliver mail.

In August of that year, one of the largest AV real estate deals of its time was consummated when the 14-room Earl ranch home was again sold to the Omart Company (M. Penn Phillips, President) for \$500,000, along with 1,050 acres, most of which was under cultivation in almonds and apricots. It was their intention to turn the former Earl ranch into a desert resort, and the house into a clubhouse. The property was to be subdivided into 2-1/2 acre estates with full bearing fruit trees, or in the natural desert state. The clubhouse would be the center with a swimming pool, billiard rooms, a cocktail bar, tennis courts, bungalows, and hotel services, as well as a nearby airstrip and landing field 1/2 mile south of the clubhouse, stables, a golf course, and other facilities. Jack Diebre would have charge of the construction, Bert Rudd would take charge of operations at the Earl ranch, and Warren McCoy was to manage the clubhouse. In Jan. 1938, the new Antelope Country Club went to the dogs when it began hosting The American Kennel Club Field Trials.

With a name change and some changes in management, the Antelope Country Club continued operating as the Antelope Dude Ranch in 1939, and by 1940, the new resort was not only catering to the locals, but it was also attracting visitors from Los Angeles and other areas with Hollywood stars enjoying the accommodations. The 1940 movie *Texas Rangers Ride Again* was filmed in part in the West AV: some of it at Shea's Castle. A funny story about the Dude Ranch made its way to the *Detroit Free Press*. The ranch had an un-posted rule that no man there wore a necktie; any who did faced the scissors. Four of the actors—John Howard, Akim Tamiroff, Anthony Quinn and Broderick Crawford—all wore ties when they entered the ranch house. "One by one they were seized and had to submit to having their neckties sheared off below the knot." Director James Hogan fell victim to the custom with the comment that his tie was not his own, he had borrowed it from the studio wardrobe department!

In 1945-46, two pilots, William Lloyd Pike and his brother-in-law Fillmore Augustus Hoak, opened an airfield at the northern base of what had long been known as Quartz Hill Mountain. As the story goes, when a man from the FAA came to check the new airfield and asked what the name of the field was, he was told it hadn't been given one yet. The man pointed to the butte to the south and asked what it was called, to which Pike replied, "Quartz Hill Mountain." So, it was decided the new field would be called Quartz Hill Airport.

Officials adopted the name "Quartz Hill" for their community around this time. The small postal unit, Earl Rural Station, was discontinued on March 22, 1947, and Rural Station of Lancaster began operating Sept. 1, 1948. It was likely run from the Dude Ranch until the new Quartz Hill Post Office opened on 50th St. W. in 1952.

Popularity of the Antelope Dude Ranch grew, and developers tried to grow the population of the area. "Desert Ranchos" were advertised as moneymaking properties or as a desert vacation getaway. New subdivisions were laid-out with names such as Country Club Estates and Belleview Estates; some included a lifetime membership to the Antelope Dude Ranch. Although sales were reported to be brisk with the majority of the property going to people who lived at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, very few homes were built at that time, preserving the small-town atmosphere and open spaces, and the Dude Ranch continued to be a favorite spot for a special meal in Quartz Hill.

*Earl Desert Estates ad.  
Desert Magazine, June 19, 1938.*



### Your "Cabin of Dreams"

Here—on one of the smart little Dude Ranchos you can build the exact type of week-end retreat that suits your fancy.

Here—A Dude Rancho, Equivalent to 13 average city lots, may be had for less than is asked for a single lot in most resort subdivisions.

**You Have Choice of Native Desert Land with Joshua Trees or Full-Bearing Almond or Fruit Trees. Improvements Are In.**

No Bonds or Assessments. Abundance of water, good roads, good schools, electricity, telephones, and membership in a truly Distinctive Club.

## GOLFING

Amidst the Joshuas

America's only course built among these ancient trees at . . .

**Antelope Country Club**  
and  
**Earl Desert Estates**

**CALIFORNIA'S**  
fastest growing recreational center rich in romance of past civilization and radiant with rare beauty.

Located near Lancaster and Palmdale  
69 miles from downtown Los Angeles

**M. PENN PHILLIPS**  
FOUNDER

2397 East Colorado Phone Terrace 9144  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



In 1950, Quartz Hill's First Annual Almond Blossom Festival was held, celebrating the area's main crop during a time when the trees were most likely to be covered with their soft-pink, fragrant flowers. It was a 2-day event beginning on Saturday with a parade that started at noon and marched up and over the hill that leads to Quartz Hill Mountain. Afterwards, a barbeque of ribs, beans, cole slaw, French bread, and coffee was enjoyed at the Dude Ranch, and later that afternoon, a horseshow was presented, probably in the Dude Ranch corrals. The Almond Blossom Queen, Jean Eastman, was crowned Saturday night in the festively decorated hanger of the Quartz Hill Airport, followed by a lively dance. During the day, flights were offered over the orchards that were in full bloom, and that night there were flights to see the twinkling Valley lights.

Sunday morning began with a hearty breakfast at the Antelope Dude Ranch, hosted by the Antelope Valley Flying Club, which was followed by a simulated search and rescue of a supposedly crashed plane in the hills. Radioed reports from the "rescue party" were broadcast to the airfield. An air show followed, sponsored by the AV Civil Air Patrol. The evening concluded with a program in the old quarry, a natural amphitheater on the south side of Quartz Hill Mountain. The Festival was immensely enjoyed and quickly became the town's yearly highlight, attracting visitors from all over the Southland.



## The Antelope Dude Ranch

One Hour and Fifteen Minutes From Hollywood  
In the Foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains, on the Rim of the Mojave Desert

HORSEBACK RIDES OVER THE HISTORIC TRAILS OF YESTERYEAR OR UNDER THE SPELL OF A DESERT MOON.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE      CLUB ROOMS  
DANCING                      BUFFET

SMALL GAME HUNTING IN SEASON      WELL TRAINED SADDLE HORSES AND EXPERIENCED COW HANDS FOR GUIDES.  
SKEET SHOOTING      TENNIS  
BADMINTON                      SWIMMING

WELL APPOINTED GUEST ROOMS AND UNSURPASSED MEALS AWAIT YOU.

### ANTELOPE DUDE RANCH

LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA      PHONE LANCASTER 269

Over Sepulveda Boulevard Thru Mint Canyon Highway—Turn Left at Sign 5 Miles North of Palmdale—Then 4 miles Over Paved Roads to Club.

Top left: First Almond Blossom Festival ticket, March 5, 1950; Above: Antelope Dude Ranch ad, Desert Magazine; Left: Postcard postmark Earl Rural Station, May 1, 1939, contributed by Carol Stephens. Below: 1937 at the Antelope Dude Ranch, Les & Margaret Fredeen with daughter Patricia. Photo from Pat (Fredeen) Nichols. Bottom left: "Joshua Jack" matchbook cover, contributed by Dayle DeBry.







**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE AVRМ!**

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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:** AVRМ P.O. Box 1316, Lancaster, CA 93538

*Donate and pay dues via **PayPal** on our website: [www.avmuseum.org](http://www.avmuseum.org)*

*Ca. 1929-30—10th Street (Lancaster Blvd.) looking east.*



**LOS ANGELES TIMES**

**December 22, 1938**

**LET WINDS HOWL; LANCASTER'S YULE SIGNS WON'T BUDGE**

Antelope Valley's famous winds have been thwarted. Year after year Lancaster's Christmas decorations have gone sailing away on the wings of an Antelope zephyr. Last year \$160 worth of ornaments were blown right off the trees that lined the main street. But this year the winds may blow and Lancaster will still be decorated for the Christmas season.

Twenty-two wooden figures of Santa, his reindeer and his wooden sleigh, were made to a special design for the Chamber of Commerce. The figures, four to six feet in height, are securely anchored and do not even sway in the wind.

Website: [www.avmuseum.org](http://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](mailto: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”	
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

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The AVRM will honor the history of the Antelope Valley with documentation, preservation, exhibition, and education.

### DONATIONS

Pickus Challenge 2019—2020 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

