



MYSTERY?

## WANTED:

**Volunteers:** Help us preserve and share the history of our valley.

**Members:** Invite your friends and family to join us, even if they live out of the area!

**Donations Needed:** 2 Surge 4' protectors, forevers stamps, stories & photos.

**Contact Shelley: 805-922-3130**

## Board

Brooke Bradley, President  
Dave Cross, Vice President  
Tami Jo Halliburton, Secretary  
Sharon Frizzell, Treasurer  
Jason Blanco, Member  
Ed Hazard, Member  
Bob Nelson, Member  
Pam Paxton, Member  
Roy Reed, Member  
Manny Semiatin, Member  
Shelley Klein, Curator

## Hours of Operation

Sunday and Monday: Closed  
Tuesday—Saturday  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Closed major holidays.

## Address

616 S. Broadway Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

## Contact

Phone: 805-922-3130  
smvhsmuseum@outlook.com

## Website:

<https://santamariahistory.com>

## Volunteers: JOIN US

Charla Jerry Lana Judy  
Jason Mike Manny  
Aushie Julie

## EVENTS

**Jan. 31:** Behind Barbed Wire Multi-Media Performance 7:30 pm, \$12

<https://clarkcenter.org/shows/behind-barbed-wire/>

**Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:** Sat. 11:30 at Santa Maria Inn, please RSVP by

Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. **Cost \$35.** Jim Bray will speak about the Planes of Fame Museum. The Planes of Fame Museum is sponsoring this event.

**Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>:** PRESENTATION, History of Sports in Santa Maria (Little League – 75 years Old) Sunday at SM Library 1 pm

**Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>:** Centennial Celebration of Hancock's acquisition of the SMVRR. Wed @ 11 am presentations by the Hancock Family and SMVRR at the Corner of Jones and McClelland Streets with a reception, with refreshments, to follow at the SMV Historical Museum.

**Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>:** Board Meeting 4 pm

**March 28<sup>th</sup>:** Board Meeting 4 pm

**TBA:** Docent visit to San Ramon Chapel, marking 150th Anniversary

## SMV History Presents: Ladies Literary Club and Carnegie Library



Did you know that it was a Methodist preacher and the ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (W. C. T. U.) who first raised money for a Free Public Library? It opened in November of 1883 in the Jones building, adjoining the Times offices. Ida May Twitchell was a member of the WCTU and a Ladies Literary Society (Minerva Club) founder, as was Sophia Thornburgh Jones! The churches also had their Ladies Aid Societies. It was the wish to gather

together the ladies of all the group groups and those not involved with the church who wanted to open a Free Public Library and self-improve through lectures and books studies. In 1894, 25 women met to organize the Ladies Literary Society. The club was raising money and purchasing books from the very beginning including purchasing a bookcase in 1896. In 1897 they spent \$35 dollars on library books. In 1899, they voted to pay Mrs. Farrington, \$1 a month as librarian. By 1900, there were 341 books in the library. In 1901 they wrote Andrew Carnegie about funds for the building of a library. Finally, after two attempts of city incorporation and the tragedy of not enough water for the Buena Vista Park, the ladies convinced the men to vote to become a city. One of the first order of business was to build the library! Before the library was built, the books had been housed in the Jones Building, the post office, the Mau hardware store, twice in Dr. Bagby's reception room and in the upper story of the Heller building.

**Needs:** Framing of Jeff Jones Silver Certificate from World's Fair (21.5 x 25.5), **Wish list of items on Amazon** ([email me for the link](#)) such as cotton matting for pictures, sleeves for postcards and other documents, envelopes, newer surge protectors etc.

## Interesting Find



Jason, our photo expert, found out that UCSB Archives had a photo album of Sisquoc Ranch (I believe Easton took the photos) from 1899. I visited UCSB and was able to take photos of the album. When transferring them to our data base, I found this one of the **Old Adobe Foxen House!** What a treasure for the museum. Was Foxen Canyon Road called Los Alamos Road in 1899?

# SANTA MARIA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWS

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Winter 2025

## Artifact Spotlight

We have received SMHS Cheerleading and Drill Team Uniforms (including shoes and boots!) THANK YOU! So excited to add these to our display. **Righetti grads, where are you?** We need some ERHS artifacts to add a display case for ERHS (Hancock College too!)



## Guest Exhibit – Korean War



Now through January, we have our tribute to **Korean War Veterans Exhibit**. We continue to ask for photos and artifacts to add to our collection. Please bring in or email any photos or artifacts that we can scan, archive and **return to you**, if you want them back. Jason, our photo expert, works on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

## News

**Grant:** We received a grant from Altrusa and will be purchasing a camera for artifacts.

**HELP!** We need more pictures and stories about **veterans** so that we can include them in our Military Exhibit. We are planning a presentation about local **Vietnam War Veterans**. Please share, and let us know if you can help present. 805 922-3130

## Do you have three hours to spare?

1. **Docents**, we have a dedicated Tuesday Docent and would like more! Would you like to learn more about our history and share it?
2. **Pictures and stories** about local pioneer **schools** for a future book.
3. **Vietnam War Veteran** pictures, stories, speakers and artifacts for our future exhibit.
4. **Names of childhood sweethearts** for another book.
5. **Like Maps?** We need help with sorting, organizing and data enter for our maps.
6. **Like Books?** We need help with sorting, organizing and data enter for our books.

## Pioneer Spotlight: Elwin Mussell



According to The Country Printer, Elwin came to Santa Maria in 1921 from North Dakota. He published the Santa Maria Advertiser, a weekly newspaper from 1925 to 1958. He served for six years on the City Planning Commission from 1960 – 1966. He was elected to the City Council in 1966 and as mayor in 1974 until he retired in 1980. Elwin was a charter member of the Santa Maria Press Club, Santa Barbara County Range Improvement Association, Santa Maria Rifle Club and the Vaqueros de los Ranchos. His committee involvement included being a member of the Automobile Club, SM Cancer Society, Chamber of Commerce, League of California Cities, Santa Maria Valley

Developers, Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, Christian Business Men's Committee and the First Presbyterian Church. He received Service Awards from Kiwanis, Y.M.C.A., Boys Scouts and Boy's Club. He received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Chamber of Commerce. He also served as the director for the Santa Maria Valley Beautiful, United Way, Santa Maria Arts Council and the Santa Maria Symphony. Mr. Mussell took great pride in the city accomplishments during his term: Senior High Rise, 3<sup>rd</sup> fire station, completed Priesker and Adam Park and the Minami Community Center, completed Seniors Lawn Bowling green, a new 7,000,000-gallon water reservoir and completed the Miller Street by-pass. We also remember Mussell Fort near Colson Canyon.

