

THE SAINT JOSEPH'S
Chronicle

"We write frankly and fearlessly but then we 'modify' before we print". - Mark Twain



TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUTDOOR & GARDEN

Hill-Blazing - *Alberto Olmedo*.....6
Life On The Farm - *Robert Bobb*10

FITNESS

Taekwondo: A Way of Life - *Cory Culmer*.....14

ART & CULTURE

Let's Talk Painting - *Antoinette Ellis*18
Let's Chisel This Out with Steve - *Steve Salutan*22
Farm Cooking with Jeannie - *Jeannie Matter*28

INTERVIEW Q & A

The Inside Scoop - *Kevin Donaghy*34



MEET THE PRESS



SAVANNAH ANDERSON

"I do sports. I play Golf and Bocce Ball. I like to hang with my friends. I like to take care of my Mom. I grew up in Santa Maria. I have cousins that live in Orcutt. I like working at Oak Creek Farm with my friends. I like to open the door for people when they need help."



ROBERT BOBB

"I play golf. I can hit up to 55 yards on the driving range. I am pretty good at golf. I made four birdies in a row! I am a wrestling fan, I have all the movies at home. I have met Stone Cold Steve Austin. He gave me a t-shirt with his autograph, but I won't wear it at Oak Creek Farm because I don't want it to get dirty. I am a good guy and I like to help people. I do a lot of things with my church. I enjoy volunteering. When I was in ROTC in school, I shook President Reagan's hand and we played golf together. He had his own golf course. I like coming out to Oak Creek Farm, and I keep an eye out for everyone there. I want everyone to read my article and get a kick out of it."



CORY CULMER

"My name is Cory Culmer. I was born here in Santa Maria. I am a red/black stripe belt in Taekwondo. I like to help my classmates at Taekwondo. I like going different places. My wife and I go together to the movies. I enjoy getting out and meeting new people in our community."



KEVIN DONAGHY

“I am 56 years old. I have general education requirements completed. I am pursuing a major in language and arithmetic. My hobbies are horticulture and animal care. I am single. I like to keep busy with my schedule, work is a big benefit in my opinion. I am a Lompoc native. I choose to commute for environmental benefits. I appreciate renewing the arts. I keep entertained.”



ANTOINETTE ELLIS

“I was born in California. I like to cook and I like to make things. I like to learn new things. I like goats and chickens and cats. My favorite goat is named Hans. I have nice friends. I like to do things with my friends and family. My best friend is funny. My favorite food is pizza.”



JEANNIE MATTER

“My name is Jeannie. I grew up in Santa Maria. I am hardworking. I recently retired and now have more time to be an Explorer. I am a good friend and I like animals. I have always been The Chronicle's #1 Fan.”



ALBERTO OLMEDO

I like working out at the Farm. I like to do things the right way. I like to help out around the house and work hard. I go to the mall to see scary movies. I am from Santa Maria and enjoy spending time with my family. I like to help out my family by taking care of their cars and helping around the house. I have one sister, four brothers, and I just became an Uncle. I really liked playing flag football for Special Olympics last year and I want to play again this year. My favorite football team is the Dallas Cowboys.



STEVE SALUTAN

“My name is Steve. One of the things that I like to do is run the sound system at my church. I am a friendly guy with a good attitude. I have family in Guadalupe, Santa Maria, and Lompoc. I enjoy BBQ'ing with my family, occasionally we cook a pig. I love to ride my bike. I ride it anywhere! I really like working on cars. I am a Chevy guy. I have a Camaro that is a Father/Son project with my Dad. I am handy and like to fix things. I like using power tools. My favorite power tool is...all of them!”



Photography brought to you by Robert Bobb, Kelly Clayton, Matt Pettersson, and Larry Martel

Hill-Blazing

With Alberto



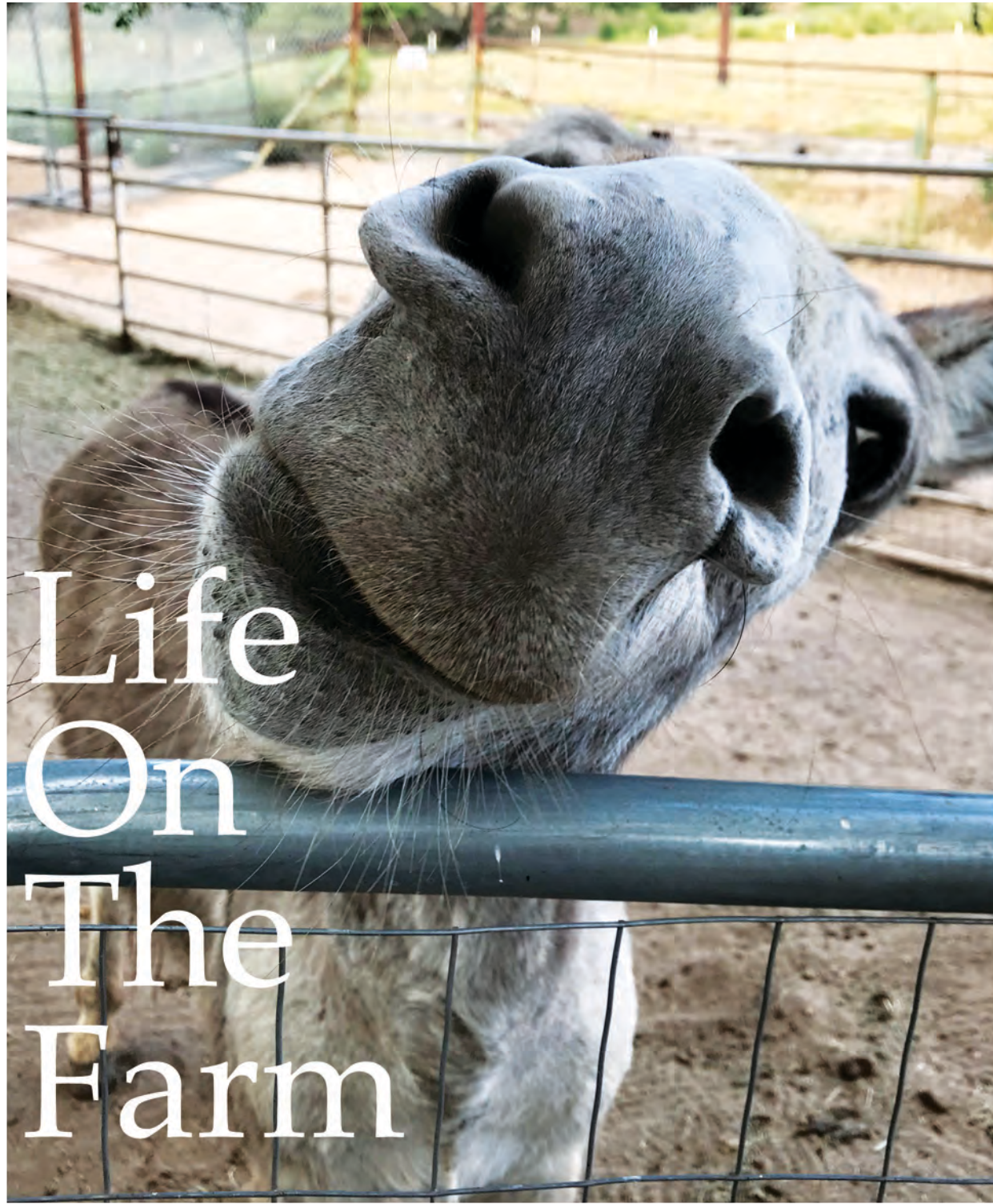
After lunch we took a hike to a different trail. This hike was fun. We went up first and then the arrows split in different directions. Larry led the way for all of us to follow him. He didn't want anybody left behind as an Explorer's crew. When we went to the top of the hill, I could see all kinds of things. It was kind of a hard hike. We had to make sure we were safe as a whole crew. We were pretending to swim in the watering hole because there was no water. We came back down the hill by where we like to take a picnic.



ALBERTO OLMEDO







Life On The Farm



ROBERT BOBB



"This is a pretty view of the garden."



"These two are clowning!"



"The chickens are all taking a nap."

"Matt and Alberto are having a chili eating contest. It was a draw. That is spicy, hot stuff!"



"Steve is getting ready to go in there to dig."

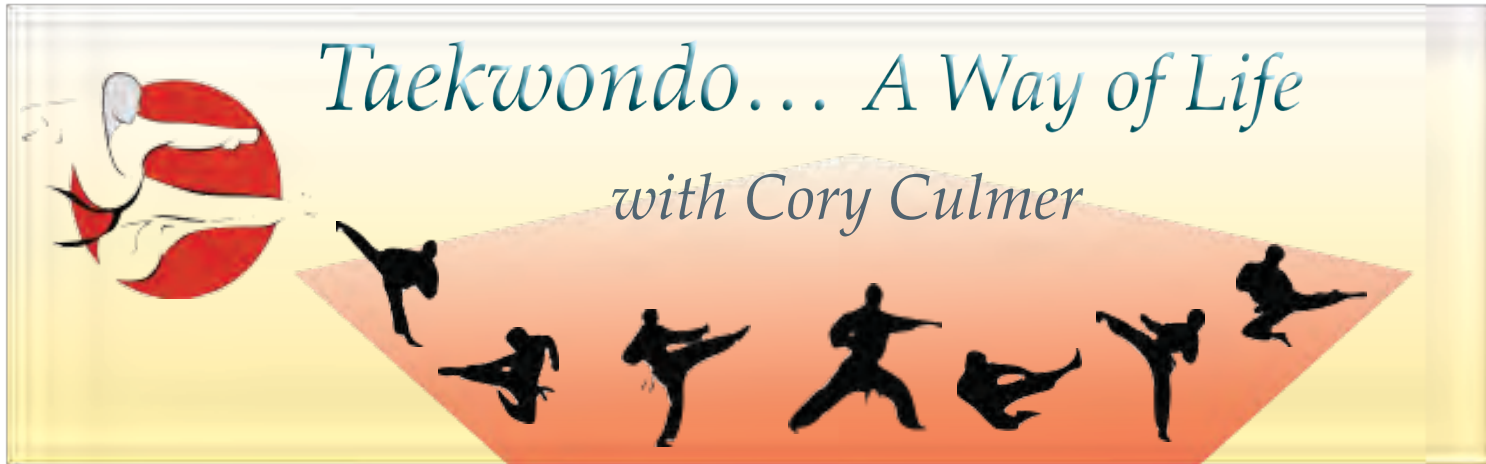
"We started giving extra hay to the sheep for the winter."



"They are digging out the dirt in the chicken coop so we can lay wire down. We got to keep the gophers out of there!"

"Mike and Marianne came down and ate lunch with us at the Farm. They are nice people."





I am still training for my black belt. I am now an associate for Taekwondo. We will be testing soon. This year is going to be a great year for Taekwondo. We are going to be able to get a lot of training in. I will be working hard to help my friends with their belts. I like to do the warm ups. I want to say thank you to Grand Master, Master Bower, and Master Park for all they do for me.



CORY CULMER



Let's Talk Painting!

By Antoinette Ellis



We used a stick from our peach tree as our paint brush. I used lots of colors, a lot of pink. I didn't sit in a chair while I painted. I stood next to Kim. It was easy to paint that way. I like it!



ANTOINETTE ELLIS







I finally finished painting and designing my box. I put hardware on my box. Now I am completely done! I decided to use black and blue on my box. Blue is my favorite color and black is the color I used for my name. The reason why I decided to write my name on my box is so everybody knows that it belongs to me. We had to drill some holes on the sides for the handles to go on. We chiseled a place for the hinges to go on. I made files for each month of the year. That is what I am keeping in my box.



STEVE SALUTAN





FARM COOKING

With Jeannie



We BBQ'd turkey legs. They were big! Larry did a good job. He even wore a crazy hat. I helped with the green beans. We washed the beans and pulled the ends off. I chopped the bacon with my friend, Steve. Our friends, Mike and Marianne, came down and had lunch with us. It was a fun day.

BBQ Smokey Turkey Legs Dutch Oven Stuffing Green Bean Bacon Feta Salad

BBQ Smoked Turkey Legs

Ingredients:

Pre-smoked/cooked turkey legs

Directions:

Wrap pre-smoked turkey legs with foil and heat on the grill for 45 to 60 minutes.

Dutch Oven Stuffing

Ingredients:

1 box of stuffing

Directions:

In the Dutch oven, boil ingredients according to directions. Stir in bread crumbs. Cover and take off heat. Let sit for 5 minutes.

Green Bean Bacon Feta Salad

Ingredients:

2 lbs. fresh green beans

1 package bacon

1 package feta cheese

Directions:

Wash and snap the ends off the green beans. Steam the beans until they are al-dente style. Cook the bacon until crispy and chop into bits. Top green beans with bacon and feta.



JEANNIE MATTER







The Inside Scoop

With Kevin Donaghy

Interview with Santa Maria Historical Society Museum Docent: **Jerry Simas**

Contributors: [Charla Chaffee](#) - Museum Volunteer, [Cindy Ransick](#) - Museum Curator



What makes the Santa Maria Historical Society Museum special?

It is special because it is all about Santa Maria and its history.



How long have you been at the present location?

46 years.



What can I learn about the city of Santa Maria at the Historical Society Museum?

All our past history. I like to talk to people about Santa Maria in the 1950s and 1960s because they can relate to that time in Santa Maria.



When did the museum open and how did it evolve into what it is today?

It started out as the Historical Society that was created on September 7, 1955, around the Golden Anniversary of Santa Maria. So this actual building didn't start with the museum until 1974. There were other short term locations from spots in the Carnegie Library to upstairs in the old Gas Company building. There were other buildings that housed a museum short term, but this actual museum began in about 1974.

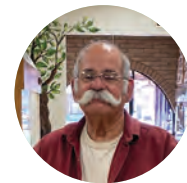




What types of items are on display at the Santa Maria Historical Society Museum?

We have some aerial photos. We have old photos of downtown Santa Maria and what old town used to look like. We have a lot of Hancock memorabilia. We have a special wall of Hancock material. That is my favorite part of the museum. We have lots of other different things. We have the evolution of the phone, an old kitchen area, lots of things that show what Santa Maria would have looked like many years ago, evolving from the 1800s into our time today. We cover a lot of agriculture, since we have a lot of farming in this area. We cover the oil industry, that was big in this area during the early 1900s. We have quite a bit of that too.

Because we are history based, we are not going to be covering anything that is current event based. In actuality, we have young people that come in and ask us about the 80s, but we really are not touching on that as history at this point! A lot of the schools and people that visit us here were born in the 2000s, so they were not even born in the same century as those of us that are here at the museum. So, what people perceive as history is often varied. How the museum is set up is looking at the century past. We get folks from Europe and Japan that don't find us to be historical because their history goes back millenniums. So what is considered history can really vary. We really try to focus on how Santa Maria developed and came to be. We look at it more from a family perspective. Like the founding families of the community.



Santa Maria is a most modern city. Are mechanical development technologies on display at the museum?

We have some items that relate to the early agricultural times. We have a switchboard that came out of the local telephone company. We have one of the tools that was used to milk cows in the early days. We have a section that is dedicated to early Santa Maria Style BBQ.





Santa Maria Style BBQ is all about top block. Ike Simas was number one for BBQ in Santa Maria.



Orcutt Hill was named after William Orcutt who was a Union Oil engineer and geologist. Famous "Old Maude" provided one million barrels of oil in the first 100 days of pumping. One barrel is 42 gallons!

Garden Dairy was a drive-thru dairy located at the corner of Blosser and Cook. This cow was on the roof as a Jersey cow but when repainted was a Holstein. Nobody knows what happened to the calf.



This saddle belonged to Mr. Hancock and dates back to the 1930s. The saddle was often loaned out for special events like the Elks Parade.



A curator is the leader at a museum, right?

Yes, but that is not entirely true! In a bigger museum you would have a layer of curators, but you would also have some administrators above that person, that would be seeing to the financial status of that facility and directing a series of employees, if it were a bigger group. So the curator's main responsibility is really the care of the artifacts, whereas at the bigger museums, there is a lot of administration above that. In some ways, at our museum, the volunteers are the administrators. They are responsible for a lot of the overhead functioning of the facility. The curator is the lucky one that is responsible for the museum floor. They get to touch everything, evaluate everything, select everything. They are often times responsible for how things are represented, the timelines, things like that. But in a bigger facility there is always a layer of administration above the curator, seeing to the paperwork and the parts that make everything happen.



Was the Santa Maria Valley an area of importance in the Gold Rush?

No, we didn't have any gold here. We did, however, have oil, but nobody knew about it back then. This was a desolate area that nobody wanted back then because there was not water here.



The 100 block of East Main St. was known as Whiskey Row. Whiskey Row consisted of card rooms and pool halls.



The beet industry was very big in the Santa Maria Valley. In the late 1800s, Union Sugar Company opened up at the end of Betteravia Rd. Now broccoli and strawberries are the top crops, followed by the grape industry.



Dr. Lucas was the first to practice in Santa Maria. There was little truth in advertising in the early days of medicine. Most medicine bottles claimed to cure anything and everything!



At one time, Santa Maria had over 90 dairies in the area. We have not a single dairy today.



Can you please tell me about who the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society is and if they are chartered by the City of Santa Maria?

This Historical Society consists of volunteering members who care about history in their community. We are not chartered by the City of Santa Maria, but are an independent non-profit organization. We do receive some financial support from the City, but certainly not the majority, because we are an independent non-profit.



What is the strangest item that has ever been on display at the museum?

I would say the Prehistoric Saber Tooth Cat! Mr. Hancock owned the La Brea Tar Pits and this was one of the critters that was pulled out of the tar pits and was donated to the museum by the Hancock family.



Are visits on an informal basis at the Historical Museum?

We have some scheduled/reserved visits, but very few. Most are just walk-ins and we love it when people walk-in!



What are the days of the week and hours you are open at the museum?

We are open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.



Do you advertise a website page?

Yes, we do. Our website is: www.santamariahistory.com



Thank you so much for showing us your beautiful museum.

My pleasure, I hope you enjoyed learning about the History of Santa Maria.





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