



## Meet your neighbor – Deni Hayes is a native of

L.A. and spent most of her life in the San Fernando Valley. She had a brief encounter with rural life when her parents moved to a dairy farm in Kansas. A flood in '51 wiped out their property just two years later, prompting



them to move back to California. Deni met her future husband, Ron, on a blind date. They married two years later in 1965 and produced a daughter and two sons. Ron was a mechanical engineer and worked for Aerojet Corp. on the Apollo mission. Deni was a “stay-at-home” mom, though she was kept on the go by her children’s activities, including Girl Scouts. She was also active in her parish church and worked for the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles in the Office for Worship for 10 years. Ron and Deni loved traveling and exploring the diversity of the US. In their 52-year marriage they visited all 50 states at least once, leaving the car at home only for Alaska and Hawaii. Their trips were usually marked by spontaneity, with stops and side-trips as the spirit moved them. They also loved boating and fishing and have owned several vacation homes, including one at Arrowhead. Deni used to sew a lot, still likes to read science fiction, and has always been active with volunteer work. When it came time to retire and downsize, they were already familiar with FV through friends and relatives. They moved into Lloyd and Roberta Woodson’s home on Circle Knoll in 2016. Sadly, Ron’s health took a sudden turn for the worse, and Deni lost him a year later. But she still loves living here with her 12-year-old dog, Buddy, and a house cat that stays out of sight of visitors. A recovered cancer victim herself, she is looking to get involved with City of Hope between her frequent travels to Idaho to visit her older son and his family. Besides her three children, Deni has five grandchildren and one brand new great-granddaughter.

**Roofs-HVAC-Solar Project** – Nothing new to report. The matter is in the hands of the Santa Clarita Building and Safety Dept. The plans have all been submitted, and we are waiting on their approval.

**Our most senior citizen?** – Zee Dankworth reports that “we (Assn 9) just had one of our dear neighbors, Margie Allen, turn 103 on Nov. 23rd. She is amazing and inspirational. Still living independently on her own. Of course, we all keep an eye out for her.” Can anyone in FV top that?

## Christmas Decorating Contest – Lea Peyton is



at it again. Last year she was one of the winners with the scene that you see here. Some of her decorations are not visible because it’s too dark on the porch, and some because every room inside her unit had one or more Christmas or winter scenes. As a winner last year, Lea can’t win again this year. But she doesn’t do it for the prize; she does it for the joy of the season, and she has done it every Christmas for more than forty years. No decorations inside this year. Lea admits to slowing down (aren’t we all) because of sciatica. If you want to see her handiwork, look her up on the map of Assn 1. Her unit is 158.1. You’ll have to do some walking.

**Hi Five can use some help** – You can see this issue is a little skimpy. We need some ideas. If you know of a coming event or club activity, let us in on it. If you can write an article, so much the better. If not just give us the facts, and we’ll try to mold it into something readable. Use our email address below to alert us.

**Confusion Hill aka Placerita Hill** – Prior to 1939 all traffic on U.S. 6 (Sierra Highway) was routed onto old San Fernando Road through Newhall, Saugus, and Honby to Solemint Junction. Then the road construction started on the present strip from San Fernando Road to Solemint Junction. The primary grading and bridge over Placerita Canyon were interrupted by WWII. It was completed in 1946 & 1947. It was a narrow, scrawny, two-lane road with eight-foot dusty dirt shoulders. It was blessed with high banks from which rocks of good size would roll down onto the roadway (they still do). In 1950 in Newhall Justice Court we heard a steamy trespass case. Judge A.C. Miller learned that the top of Placerita had been laid out in town lots in a failed real estate venture. Some lots had been sold. The primary survey was not clear. Who owned what was in question. The concern about this coyote, rattlesnake, and tick domicile was not understood. A few days later we found out when an oil drilling rig moved in about halfway up the hill. The locals laughed; this old hill sure attracted suckers. In a few days the well blew in! It also blew in every available surveyor from miles around. Claimants to the properties came in from hundreds of miles. Newhall Justice Court could not handle all the controversy between surveyors, drillers, property claimants, thieves, and fistfights. Fred Trueblood of the *Newhall Signal* was a busy man then. One of his quotes: "It's Confusion Hill!" The Sheriff, Fire Dept, and CHP all agreed. *Marty Forinash (1917-2014)*

**Hi Finance** – With all of the *thank yous* we have printed, our readers have a right to wonder what's happening to the money that we receive. Let's start with some simple facts. First, *Hi Five* is not a business. Consequently, we do not have a bank account or a dedicated computer or printer or office space, and we do not file with the IRS. Neither do we have to pay for distribution, thanks to our several faithful volunteers. All this

leads to the lowest possible operating cost. As for expenses, the major ones are toner for the Brother HL5340D printer and paper. We have estimated that these costs come to just under \$12 per issue of two full pages. Now, what about the money coming in? This year we received gifts from six contributors that we happily acknowledged by name. We do not publish the amounts of individual gifts for the sake of privacy. However, for the sake of being totally above-board, we will show our income figures to anyone who comes and asks. Right now, I'll simply say that *Hi Five* is in good financial shape, thank you.



**Hi Five takes a holiday** – As was our custom in our previous incarnation, we will skip the second December issue in order to enjoy the Christmas season with family and friends.

**Many thanks** – to Maryalys Hill, Joyce Hall, and Barbara Rosenquist for moving *Hi Five's* balance sheet towards the black.

**Next issue of *Hi Five*** – January 6, 2020.

“America is another name for opportunity. Our whole history appears like a last effort of divine providence on behalf of the human race.” *Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)*

*Hi Five* is an unofficial publication by Frank Jordan. Contact him at [HiFive@socal.rr.com](mailto:HiFive@socal.rr.com) or 661-251-5765. Use this e-mail for *Hi Five* business only. Please do not include this address in any forwarding or mass mailing list. *Hi Five* is available to anyone in Friendly Valley who has email.