



Main Street looking east

Ventura's Main Street circa 1885 was unpaved but wide enough for a horse and buggy to turn around.



The cows are coming home

Great herds roamed the hills and plains when cattle ranching was the backbone of Rancho Life in Southern California.

ABOUT THE ROSE GARDEN



The Olivas Adobe Rose Garden, dedicated in 2006 to Ray & Jessie Monk for helping create it, is abloom with over 130 hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, cascades and tree roses maintained by city volunteers. Historic plants abound at the adobe, including a grapevine that can trace its roots back to the days of Fray Junipero Serra and the Missions. Rebecca De la Riva Olivas, the last Olivas family member to live at the adobe, planted in front of the adobe around 1899 what Royal Fuchsia Society expert Leo Boulmeier claims is the oldest fuchsia in the world, a hardy strain called Schiller, first cultivated in 1869.

OLIVAS ADOBE

ANNUAL EXHIBIT

**MURALS
AND
ROSES**

*Grant Park view
circa 1964*

The view from the hills above City Hall shows Mission San Buenaventura at the far right and the Channel Islands cresting the horizon.



Olivas Adobe Historical Park
4200 Olivas Park Drive • Ventura, California
805-658-4728
www.cityofventura.net/olivasadobe

Open Daily
Tours: Saturday and Sunday
11 am to 4 pm

ABOUT THE ARTIST

California muralist Marguerite Hardeman (1911-1990) — a member of the Realistic Painters Group in Ojai who taught at Ventura College in the 1960s — created 25 murals, 15 of which are now in the Olivas Adobe art collection, that depict different moments from the founding of the City of Ventura and its early history, including the Olivas Adobe and Rancho San Miguel.

Visitors are invited to view her murals displayed within the adobe courtyard as well as the Rose Garden in full bloom during the free “Murals and Roses” annual event in May or June.



ABOUT THE MURALS



Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo coming ashore

Hardeman's largest mural, actually a series of panels, depicts the 1542 landing of Cabrillo, the first European explorer to navigate the coast of present day California on behalf of the Spanish empire. On the far right by the Ventura River mouth are the huts of the village the Chumash, local Native Americans, called Shisholop.



*Chumash tomols
or canoes
paddle out to
Cabrillo's ship*

*Portolà on the
Conejo Grade*

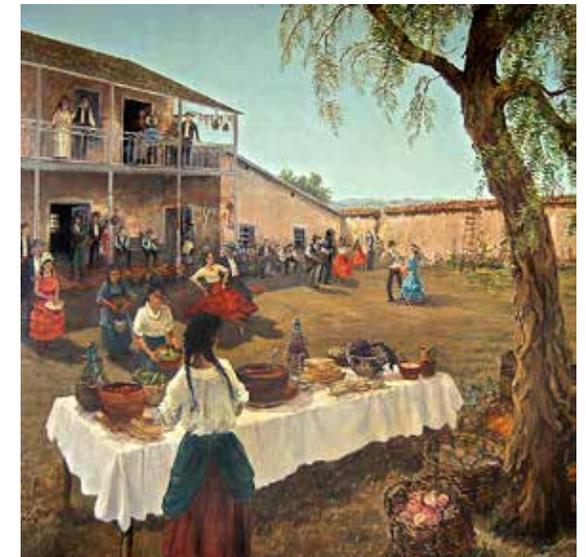
Gaspar de Portolà (1716–1786), the first Governor of Alta California, came overland with soldiers, padres and settlers to found presidios, missions and pueblos in 1769.

Retiring soldiers, granted ownership of vast acres of land, established Ranchos for grazing cattle and sheep that were later herded or shipped north during the Gold Rush to feed the feverish migration of miners and workers in 1849.



Mission San Buenaventura

Junípero Serra (1713 –1784) consecrated his ninth and last “mission by the sea” in Ventura on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1782, in honor of Saint Bonaventure (1221-1274).



Fiesta at the Olivas Adobe

Gold Rush sales of cattle allowed Raymundo Olivas (1809-1879) to throw elaborate multi-day parties in the courtyard of his two-story Rancho San Miguel adobe.