

## THE REED RANCH BELL

The old Reed Ranch bell hung just outside the back door of the old ranch house in Miguelito Canyon for decades. It's main purpose was to ring in family members and ranch hands for meals but it was a handy tool for emergencies as well. It had a beautiful rich deep tone that could be heard up and down the canyon for miles as it echoed off the Miguelito hills. When the ranch house was sold in the early 1960's my Great Aunt Amanda Reed Brock moved the bell to her yard right next door and used it at her fruit and produce stand she had set up by the road. Customers would ring it to alert her that she had a buyer for her wonderful bounty she had picked from her variety of fruit trees. After Aunt Amanda died her property was purchased by my Aunt and Uncle Bill and Wanda Cowan Pendley. The old bell was moved to the corner of their backyard garden where it sat atop a rustic post for many years until Aunt Wanda passed away on November 2, 2020. It was her wish that the bell be donated to The Lompoc Valley Historical Society so it could be enjoyed for it's rustic beauty and it's beautiful ring tone by all who visit the grounds of the LVHS.

*Written by: Lynn Benedict Romine*

